

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 15, 2014

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Mini magic

Enthusiasts flock to celebrate car marque

See Page 3



Puppy love

Willow has litter of 14 hungry little pups

See Page 8



E we go

Band are set to be next pop sensations

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Three are injured in serious collisions

THREE people — including two teenage girls — were seriously injured after being run over in two separate incidents in Dudley on Monday evening.

In the first accident a man in his mid 30s was struck by a car near the cemetery on Queens Cross, Dudley. Around 40 minutes later, just after 10pm, two girls were hit by a car in Valley Road, Upper Gornal.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "A 14-year-old girl was taken to Russells Hall Hospital with a suspected fracture to her ankle. A 13-year-old was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital with a potentially serious hip injury. "The driver of the car, a man in his late teens or early 20s, was unhurt."

In the first crash a man was left with a 'potentially serious' head injury. An ambulance was that was taking another patient to Russells Hall Hospital came on the scene and provided aid to the man until another ambulance arrived.

Mr MacGregor said: "He was immobilised using a specialist stretcher and head blocks before being taken on blue lights to the major trauma centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham."

Man stabbed in the heart

A YOUNG man who was stabbed in the heart outside a Dudley pub was in a 'stable' condition in hospital on Tuesday.

Two people have been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder following the attack in the car park of The Earl of Dudley Arms in the early hours of Sunday.

The 21-year-old victim from Dudley underwent surgery after being taken to Russells Hall Hospital at around 4am. He is understood to have been found on a bench at the pub car park.

HOMES PLAN FOR MEB SITE

PLANS have been revealed for a development to create more than 60 new homes on the site of the former MEB headquarters.

A mix of townhouses and apartments is being tabled by developers for the site in Halesowen.

Developers A&J Mucklow Group have already been responsible of the transformation of the old electrical board base and now plan further development on land off Mucklow Hill.

It is the latest scheme to be proposed for the site which was bought by A & J Mucklow in 1998. The original six-acre industrial land had previously been home to the electrical board which had been developed from the 1930s. But after the land was sold, the developer set to work creating a range of offices and knocking down old buildings.

Appropriate

The MEB building was refurbished and re-let.

The housing scheme has been proposed for the remaining part of the site.

The planning application submitted on behalf of the site owners said that they believe this would be an important scheme for the town.

"The redevelopment of this brownfield site into a residential development is considered appropriate in its location and use," said the report. "The planned buildings will reinforce and strengthen regeneration of Halesowen and the currently redundant site."

One resident has claimed in a letter to the council that there would be traffic problems created with more vehicles at more homes and that Mucklow Hill is already busy with traffic.

Report by
Heather Large

In 2009, planning permission was approved for housing on the site, despite concerns raised by a local conservation group.

The Friends of the Leasowes said they were not opposed to the homes scheme but feared it could jeopardise the future of trees that surround nearby Leasowes Park.

There are a number of mature trees that the group said would be impossible to replace and the group was determined to ensure that they were protected.

Objections were also lodged by residents living in surrounding streets.

It comes as a major restoration project is getting under way at the Grade I listed park.

Three historic areas of The Leasowes will be brought back to life to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the birth of the beauty spot's creator William Shenstone.

The original features which are to be reinstated include two clay dams and weirs in South Valley recreating two historic wetland areas.

A decision will be taken on the housing scheme in the coming weeks.

Venue rescued for community use



Celebrating — Graham Harris, Sue Harris, Donella Russell, Bryan Kelsey, Ian Cooper, Elizabeth Keenan and Mark Russell

VOLUNTEERS have come forward to run a building for community use following a two-year battle to save it.

Dudley Council agreed to transfer the former Sons of Rest venue in Halesowen over to Hasbury Community Association last week after a campaign to prevent it possibly being demolished to make way for housing.

Following the decision it will now be opened to community groups for meetings and activities.

Councillor Donella Russell, who has been campaigning to retain community use of the venue, said things were now progressing quickly with

only details of the lease now to be finalised. "We will be sitting down with council officers to confirm these details shortly," she said.

"Then it will be a matter of working out what work needs to be carried out on the building."

Fantastic

The response from the community has been absolutely fantastic.

"People have already come forward to volunteer their time to help with the site and say they will do what they can to get everything up and running."

"I think people are just delighted a

future has been secured for the building."

As part of the community asset transfer, the group will be responsible for the building's maintenance and running costs.

Members of the association said the building, between Alexandra Road and Wall Well, had been closed due to falling use as a result of rising rent prices that groups were charged.

The group says it has now found around 20 organisations which would be using the site in future but at a cheaper rate than they were charged before.

Couple to be reunited as visa ban overturned

A CHURCH pastor and his wife of 14 years who were torn apart because of an immigration wrangle have won their battle to be together.

Robert Cooper says he is overjoyed after a judge overturned the Home Office's decision to refuse his wife Adna a resident visa application.

The pair were split when immigration officials refused Brazil-born Adna a right to stay in the UK.

Campaign

Following a year-long campaign, the couple have finally got the decision they wanted.

Mr Cooper, aged 39, who lives in Pensnett, says he hopes his wife will return next month.

As Adna Cooper had lived, worked and even married her partner in the Black Country but the 35-year-old was forced to leave when the Home Office refused her a resident's visa for the UK. With £5,000 spent on legal costs, Adna and Robert are finally celebrating after a judge overturned the Home Office decision.

Robert is preparing to start 'life all over again' with his wife, beginning with him flying out next week to bring her back home to the Black Country.

MP wins an army pledge

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has secured a commitment that an Army Reserve squadron can expand.

Speaking at Defence Questions in the House of Commons on Monday, Mr Austin called on Government to do more to support A Squadron, a unit of reserve regiment The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry at Vicar Street in Dudley. Defence Minister, Ludlow MP Philip Dunne, committed to its future by allowing it to recruit.

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Leisure centres are facing review

A REVIEW over the future management of three council-run leisure centres is taking place as bosses look to trim budgets.

Dudley Council has confirmed one of the options could be transferring the management of the centres to a private company.

The council currently runs Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres as well as the Crystal Leisure Cen-

tre in Stourbridge, which are used by thousands of people every year.

Council bosses said the review would consider a range of options for future management of the sites to look at whether savings could be made.

This would be on top of the current programme of £32 million of cuts over the next three years.

Director of urban environment

John Millar said the council faced 'a very challenging financial situation' and all departments had been tasked with identifying savings.

Mr Millar said: 'The council is currently considering a range of options with regard to the future management of the borough's leisure centres to ensure that residents and visitors alike have affordable access to leisure facilities which in

turn contributes to the health and wellbeing of those using them.

'The council does face a very challenging financial situation and all council service areas have been challenged to find savings whilst maintaining service provision wherever possible.'

'No decisions have been made at this time and we are continuing to look at what options are available.'

Scheme to help families pay bills

CASH-STRAPPED families will be able to get up to £10,000 worth of grants to save extra money on energy bills.

Grants can already be used to install a range of measures including loft and cavity wall insulation and draught proofing.

But now a scheme run by Dudley Council is being extended to boost the number of ways residents can insulate their homes.

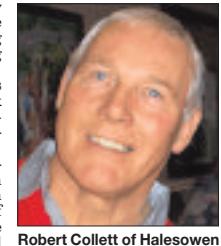
Struggling

Officials say they want to find ways to help struggling households in Dudley borough struggling to save money on heating bills. It comes after there was a sharp rise in people contacting the council's helpline offering support to people struggling to keep their homes warm between October and December last year.

Under the expansion of the Thermal Comfort scheme, people can apply for help looking for grant options open to households.

A long as the applicant meets the criteria, grants of up to £10,000 are available. People in privately owned homes can apply.

For more information call Dudley Home Improvement Service on (01384) 815118.



Robert Collett of Halesowen

Jo Chambers, chief executive at the hospital trust, said: 'The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust apologises sincerely to the family of Robert Collett for their loss and the on going distress this has caused. The trust has admitted liability in this case for failure to discontinue the patient's operation when there were clear indications that this should have been considered.'

Mr Collett was rushed to Birmingham City Hospital after the operation but died hours later.

His wife had been due to celebrate their 28th wedding anniversary and go on a safari holiday.

He had three children, Nicola Jones, 35, Adele, 28, and Mark, 26, as well as two grandchildren, four-year-old Max and Lacey, aged two.

Mrs Collett, aged 54, worked at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital at the time of her husband's death. She has since left and now works as a palliative care nurse.

An independent review carried out by The Royal College of Anaesthetists after Mr Collett's death found poor communication and leadership, as well as a low standard of pre-operative assessment and record keeping.

The event is set to feature entertainment by former X Factor finalist Joseph Whelan and an auction hosted by TV presenter Ray Wilding at Molineux on September 13. Tickets priced £45 can be bought individually or in tables.

Monies raised will be used by Whizz Kidz to support disabled children in the Black Country. To book or for information call 01902 872504 or e-mail helen.hammond@jardinemotors.co.uk

Woman charged

A WOMAN from Halesowen has been charged with drink-driving after a crash where a car rolled over Alison Piggott, aged 27, of Nimmings Road, was arrested following the accident on Narrow Lane on March 28. She will appear before Dudley magistrates on Tuesday.

Hospital apologise for death after routine op

Developer helping school



Head Rachel Cutting and Ian Romano, of St Modwen, with pupils at Olive Hill Primary School DEVELOPER St Modwen has started work to revitalise the outdoor education and sports facilities at Olive Hill Primary School in Halesowen.

The project will see the creation of a grass football pitch, hard play areas, Early Years Learning Centre and a forest area.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor, said: 'We're really pleased to have started work on the outdoor facility for Olive Hill Primary School. The new space will help ensure that the school meets its

current and future requirements with modern, purpose-built facilities for pupils and visitors.'

Head teacher Rachel Cutting said: 'These new facilities will bring considerable benefit to existing and future pupils of Olive Hill. We very much look forward to seeing the development progress and to utilising the new space for a range of activities.'

The school project is part of St Modwen's £2 million project to create new homes and facilities at Coombs Wood, Halesowen.

HOSPITAL bosses have apologised after a father-of-three died after doctors failed to act on signs he was suffering heart problems while having a routine knee operation.

The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in Birmingham has apologised and admits liability in the case which led to the death of Robert Collett of Halesowen.

An inquest into the part-time driver's death heard that the surgery in February 2011 went ahead despite the 62-year-old complaining of chest pains and feeling unwell.

Lawyers acting for his family say that in the week before his operation an assessment showed an abnormal heart monitor reading.

Expert evidence compiled by the law firm Irwin Mitchell found he would in all likelihood still be alive if staff had stopped the knee surgery when he started showing signs of cardiac distress in theatre.

Mr Collett's widow Angela said: 'If they had taken note and listened to what he was saying he might still have been here today.'

Mr Collett was rushed to Birmingham City Hospital after the operation but died hours later.

His wife had been due to celebrate their 28th wedding anniversary and go on a safari holiday.

She said since 2011 the trust had made improvements.

'The trust has developed a new method of pre-operative assessment where a consultant anaesthetist is available to consider pre-existing conditions likely to affect surgery and to call for additional tests as necessary. We have extended and improved our training within the operating team and carried out a peer review of best practice to improve communication. We're carrying out an ongoing review of record keeping.'

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Body is found in a burnt out car

A BODY was found in a burnt-out car near Cradley Heath railway station on Saturday night.

The fire service made the grim discovery in a Peugeot 306 near Forge Lane. The fire was so fierce that the identity of the deceased is yet to be established.

A forensic post mortem is taking place. CCTV footage is also being trawled.

Detective Inspector Warren Hines said: "We are yet to establish the person's identity or the cause of their death."

Get on board to try sailing hobby

A SAILING club in Dudley hope to get more people into the sport with a weekend of free tuition.

Dudley Sailing Club based at High Bridge Road, Netherton, will be giving people can get a taste of sailing with experienced instructors this weekend at Lodge Farm Reservoir. The event on Saturday and Sunday is part of the Royal Yacht Association Push The Boat Out Campaign to get more people under sail. See www.dudleysailingclub.co.uk website.

Health trust has new finance boss

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has appointed Mark Axcell as its new finance boss.

Mr Axcell has more than 20 years of NHS finance experience. His most recent role was associate director at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, and his previous experience includes senior finance posts in both the Dudley and Walsall boroughs.

Fans to go Gaga over extra date

AMERICAN pop star Lady Gaga is bringing Artrave, her Artpop Ball tour, to Birmingham, for an extra date at the NIA on November 13. The flamboyant New Yorker had already announced an NIA gig for October 15. Tickets for the extra date range from £35 to £90 plus fees, on sale tomorrow from 9am at website www.livenation.co.uk

Village brews

A PUB is to hold a beer festival devoted to one brewery. The Britannia in Halesowen Street, Blackheath, will feature beers from the award-winning Kinver Brewery over the spring bank holiday, May 23 to 26.

Veterans are to be honoured at event

ARMED services veterans entitled to badges and medals are being urged to come forward to have their awards presented at an Armed Forces Day celebration at Himley Hall.

Armed Forces Day 2014 in association with Forces Recruitment Services will be held at Himley Hall and Park on June 29.

The family event runs from 11am to 5pm and will include army displays, a band concert, children's entertainment and youth marching band competition.

Mayor

The highlight of the day will be a presentation of medals and badges to veterans, including the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge by the Mayor of Dudley.

John Polychronakis, chief executive at Dudley Council, said: "Our presentation to veterans is the most important part of the day.

"It's our opportunity as a borough to say thank you for their special role in serving the country."

Veterans need to have applied for and received their badges in order to have them presented on the day. Call the Veterans UK helpline on 0808 1914218.

Debut single for pop group

DUDLEY pop group EoF, who are currently supporting McBusted on their nationwide tour, release their debut single on May 26.

Called Lust, it was recorded at Wolverhampton's Magic Garden Studio with former Paolo Nutini and Robert Plant producer Gavin Monaghan. A video to accompany the track was made in the Drakelow Tunnels under Kinver and stars the band as vampires.

The band will be performing in front of thousands of McBusted fans at the LG Arena on Saturday night and again on May 27.

See What's On — page 22

Dragon boat races

'DRAGON boats' will take to the water in a series of charity races on Sunday.

The Rotary Club of Wolverhampton's annual charity Dragon Boat Challenge will take place at Himley Park Great Pool from 10am on Sunday and entry to the park will be free.



Christina Edkins

AN MP has stepped up his campaign for prison sentences for people caught carrying knives, following the death of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins on a Birmingham bus.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has called for the mandatory punishment since the 16-year-old was stabbed to death on her way to Leasowes High School last year.

Christina was attacked by mentally ill Philip Simelane, who later

pledged guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility and was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Mr Morris said a mandatory prison sentence should be given to 'send the strongest signal that carrying knives is unacceptable and will be punished'.

Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said he wants to change the sentencing policy on knife crime. Mr Morris backed amendments to the

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill for a six-month minimum jail sentence for adults convicted of carrying a knife for a second time.

The Conservative MP said: "I promised Christina Edkins' family that I would take up the issue of knife crime and would campaign for a change in the law to make sure that people caught carrying illegal knives receive the prison sentences they deserve. The Government has done a lot already to toughen up knife laws, including ending simple

police cautions for carrying an illegal knife and introducing minimum sentences — but we need to go further to make sure that people know that carrying an illegal knife will be treated the same as carrying a gun."

"I know that the Government is restricted by what can be agreed with coalition partners, but I believe that this issue is so important that we must put it forward in the House of Commons. If other parties want to vote it down, they will have to explain why to their own voters."

Teens found guilty over spate of racist attacks

FIVE teenagers have been found guilty of involvement in four racist attacks, which included an eight-year-old boy being slapped and spat at as his family left a mosque.

District Judge Terence English told the five that they should not think they will be going home when they face sentence later this month. The five, aged 15 and 16 who cannot be named for legal reasons, were found guilty last

week of all the charges they each faced after a two-day trial. They were involved in four attacks in Old Hill and Cradley Heath in October.

The charges included using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress and using such words so that people would believe violence would be used against them, and criminal damage.

On October 16, a 68-year-old Asian man was verbally abused by a group of youths at the corner of Trinity Street and Lawrence Lane, before being assaulted by one of them. The second incident took place a day later when a frail man, 70, was walking home from a mosque in Highgate Street when he was verbally abused racially by a group of males. One assaulted him.

On October 20 an Asian man in his 40s was in his car outside a takeaway in Cradley Heath when it was damaged to the point of being written off, after being kicked by a gang. Racial slurs were heard. On October 24, a young family were leaving a mosque on Plant Street when they were verbally and racially abused before an eight-year-old boy was slapped and spat at.

The youths will be sentenced at Sandwell Youth Court on May 29. A 17-year-old, who cannot be named, already pleaded guilty to racially-aggravated assaults. To find out more about adoption call 0800 073 0597 or visit the www.adoption-blackcountry.co.uk website.

Mini mad motorists flock to hall show



Francesca and Paul Billington, of Halesowen, at the show at Himley Hall with Mario, their 1993 Rover Mini Sprite

THOUSANDS of Mini enthusiasts turned out to celebrate the iconic car once manufactured in the millions in the West Midlands.

More than 3,000 enthusiasts turned out for the British Mini show in the grounds of Himley Hall on to enjoy the show which attracts people from across the world.

This is the 22nd time the show has been held at the 18th century venue near Dudley and the crowds were able to enjoy a selection of trade stands,

club displays and they even had a chance to win one of the classic cars for as little as £1 in a raffle.

One of the cars on display was a 1993 Mini Sprite owned by Francesca and Paul Billington from Halesowen. The couple have owned the car since 2011, following a desire by Francesca to own a practical classic car.

Smiles

She said: "We both had a really brilliant weekend and the show was

excellent, although the weather could have been better. Minis are just one of those things that puts a smile on most people's faces."

The event is run by the British Mini Club, who this year were celebrating the 55th anniversary of the car, which finished its life as a British car being built at Longbridge in Birmingham.

David Hollis, the event's organiser, said the show attracted people from across the UK as well as Europe and Japan.

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HOW can we comprehend the passing of centuries? That great observer Matthew Parris uses the late Queen Mother's lifespan of 101 years as a yardstick: "Nine Queen Mothers laid end to end will take you all the way back to the Vikings."

□□□□□□□

"IT will feel quite warm, given the strength of the May sun, but conversely in the rain it will feel quite chilly. From this month's long-term weather forecast by the Met Office. And I dare say the wind will be occasionally blowy and the nights somewhat darker than the days."

□□□□□□□

"I SAY with some pride that I had a state education; school, university. None of it cost me or my parents a penny. It's a situation which young people in education today can only dream of and this is wrong." Alan Bennett, just turned 80. And he's right. The snag is that in Bennett's day only a small percentage of teenagers were considered bright enough for university. They were seen as a national asset to be nurtured. The rest of us got jobs. As such elitism is no longer acceptable, we now send half of our kids to university, creating tens of thousands of graduates who seem to know nothing about anything.

□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. A patient at a hospital in Liverpool was accidentally given a vasectomy during a minor op. The hospital trust says this was only its second "never event." The term is used to describe something that should never happen. Yet a "never event" is, by definition, something that has happened. How about the simpler and more honest expression "cock up"?

□□□□□□□

WHILE you're wincing at the price of your latte, consider this expert opinion on the coffee caper. Duncan Rayner, a lifelong coffee merchant, tells the Daily Telegraph: "With quality aruba coffees costing around £1.75 a kilo raw, and yields as high as 200 cups per kilo, it is difficult to make a cup of coffee cost more than 2.5p."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Primary school chosen to help train teachers

A PRIMARY school in Halesowen has been selected to become a national training centre for teachers.

Lutley Primary School is the first primary school in Dudley borough to be chosen by the National College for Teaching and Leadership to become a teaching school.

The primary school on Brookwillow Road, is one of only 200 schools in England to be granted teaching school status during the latest designation round. It will now take on a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession.

Outstanding

Schools chosen as teaching centres must be rated as 'outstanding' and Mrs Jeannette Mackinney, the executive headteacher said:

"I am proud and delighted that Lutley has been successful in becoming the first primary teaching school in Dudley. This designation recognises Lutley's continued commitment to high standards for all our pupils and the whole of the school community."

The school was described by Ofsted in 2010 as 'an ideal atmosphere for learning and personal growth'. The report said behaviour in the school was excellent and the school had an exceptionally high standard of care, guidance and support.

by Simon Stone

Charlie Taylor, chief executive of the National College for Teaching and Leadership, said: "Lutley Primary School should be very proud of their teaching school status. It recognises the school's outstanding performance and its track record of raising standards through supporting other schools."

"There are now more than 500 designated teaching schools around the country with more to follow. In an increasingly school-led system, they are leading the way in training new teachers and helping existing teachers develop their skills - ensuring we'll have the best people teaching our children for generations to come."

Teaching schools work with partner schools including at least one university, to ensure quality school-led initial teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career.

Have a loff about Bionic Aynuk



Black Country poet and performer Dave Reeves

A BALLAD of Bionic Aynuk being rebuilt by 'tatters' after an accident entertained people at an event to celebrate the Black Country dialect.

Dozens of people shared the fun and laughter at the event, hosted by Dudley borough's new archives and local history centre, Tipton Road, when Black Country performer and poet-in-residence at the Black Country Living Museum, Dave Reeves, presented a talk called Black Country Dialectics.

Ballad

He had his audience chuckling at his ballad to Aynuk, inspired by 1970s TV show The Six Million Dollar Man, in which tatters were sent scouring the tips to find parts to rebuild the popular Black Country character after an accident.

Famous sons of the area who moved to America, such as OK Corral gunfighter Wyatt Earp, from a Wednesbury family, inspired a story of Black Country men in Dodge City with Billy the Kid looking for a pint of mild and pork scratchings.

Arts and crafts go on display at festival

MORE than 300 works of art will be on display at an annual arts and crafts festival which gets under way tomorrow.

Work by artists from across the West Midlands will be on show at Quinton Methodist Church this weekend.

There will be displays of woodcraft, ceramics, and wool spinning as well as painting and craft demonstrations.

Comedian

For gardeners there will be a sale of a large variety of plants.

The event will run from next Friday to Sunday.

Tomorrow Black Country comedian, Dougie Parker will be performing his Music and Laughter Show with musicians Steve Ashcroft and Martin Lewis at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8.50.

The festival will be formally opened the following day at 10.30am by the Lightwoods School Choir. The event is a regular on the church's calendar and attracts more than 600 visitors.

It will open from 11am to 5pm tomorrow, 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 2pm to 4pm on Sunday. Admission is £1. Money raised will go to Loaves N Fishes, a Christian charity helping families in Cradley Heath and Blackheath.

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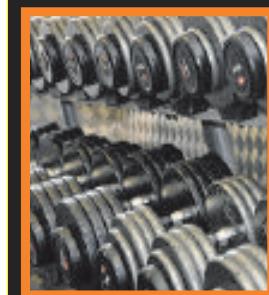
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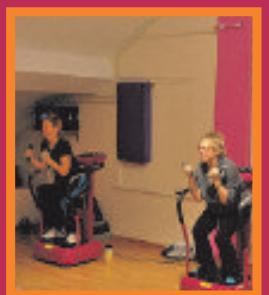
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New shops are on the way for Merry Hill

THE new operator of the Merry Hill shopping complex is looking to attract new shops and restaurants.

Intu Properties, which has purchased 50 per cent of the centre in Brierley Hill, is also planning to improve the malls. The centre, ranked in the UK's top 25 shopping centres, is being re-branded as intu Merry Hill. The company has also bought a shopping centre in Derby.

Chief executive David Fischel said: "We are delighted to have concluded such a significant transaction, reinforcing our position as the leading owner, developer and manager of top UK shopping centres, with intu Derby and intu Merry Hill increasing our national coverage of branded centres."

London-based Intu has an investment plan of £1.2 billion over 10 years with projects at most of its 25 centres. It has yet to reveal specific details for Merry Hill but it is keen to attract new tenants. A management report said the company was looking at "repositioning the tenant line-up, including increasing catering and leisure and improving the mall environment" leading to "significant rental growth".

Intu has spent £407.7m buying Westfield's share of Merry Hill. The other half is owned by Australian investment body QIC. Merry Hill has 10,000 parking spaces and Intu has pledged to keep parking free.

Mother, 37, died jumping in front of express train

A WOMAN'S state of mind before she was hit by a train in Smethwick will never be known for certain, an inquest heard.

Mother-of-one Kiran Salim Siddiqi was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in 1998, Smethwick Coroner's Court heard.

The 37-year-old divorcee had medicated her illness and always cooperated with mental health services but she had relapses of problems over the years, when she would have delusions, the inquest was told.

Ms Siddiqi, of Wellington Road, Edgbaston, died after being hit by a non-stop train travelling through Smethwick Galton Bridge station on November 30. The cause of death was multiple injuries from the collision.

Assistant Black Country coroner Angus Smillie said no note had been left at the station to suggest Ms Siddiqi's state of mind before her death and mobile phone records provided no clues.

He said he could not be certain whether she was suffering a mental health episode or relapses at the time of her death and so recorded an open verdict.

The inquest heard that she leaves behind an 11-year-old daughter.

Her uncle Dr Aleem Akhtar has previously described his niece, a qualified solicitor who was working as a volunteer in a hairdressing salon, as a "gentle and loving person".

by Alex Homer

A night of nuns having fun at The Grand



The cast of the WBOS production of Sister Act which is being performed at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, this week

THERE were nuns on the run on Tuesday as hit musical Sister Act burst into song at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, presented by West Bromwich Operatic Society.

The cast of enthusiastic amateur performers took the audience to heaven with a high-energy, foot-tapping performance of the musical version of the 1992 Whoopi Goldberg film.

When nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a murder, she is forced to hide out in the most inappropriate place, a convent! To keep

Deloris out of mischief she is told to take over the ailing choir and so begins mayhem as two worlds collide.

BBC Over The Rainbow contestant and mum of twins, Tasheka Coe, from Tettenhall, gives Miss Goldberg a run for her money, delivering an excellent comedy performance as Deloris, together with stunning vocals and far more glamour than Whoopi could ever have hoped to achieve.

Policeman Simon McGee is on a busman's holiday, taking on the role of cop Eddie, rising to the occasion in

NEWS in brief

Police funding dance classes
YOUNGSTERS can get their dancing shoes on thanks to a cash donation from the police. Officers from the Old Hill and Cradley Heath neighbourhood policing team have secured £700 funding to help youngsters learn a new skill.

Hybrid Studios in Princes End, Tipton, has been presented with the cash to fund equipment used in school classes for cheerleading, ballet and other disciplines.

The money comes from the Police Property Act Fund, a pot of cash created for good cases through the sale of property seized as part of police investigations. Over five years West Midlands Police has donated more than £5 million to community groups.

Grants sought for park building

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to improve a park's facilities are hoping to land cash grants to aid their efforts.

The Friends of Quarry Bank Park are seeking funding to help refurbish a prominent building in the park, affectionately known locally as the White House.

They are hoping to spruce up changing rooms for sport teams and accommodation for park workers, improve refreshment facilities, to give a home to community and volunteer groups. Councillor David Sparks, chairman of the friends group, said: "It's to get support so we can put in a variety of bids to make it happen."

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VITRIOLIC Apprentice candidate turned self-styled national treasure Katie Hopkins revealed her concerns about the UK's chances in the Eurovision song contest at the weekend.

Correctly, as it turned out, she predicted that Britain's Molly Smitten-Downes would struggle to win favour with the international judging panel ahead of Saturday's showdown.

"The competition is not about singing, it is about being petty and spiteful," she wrote.

Is she pitching for a crack at it next year then? If that is the criteria, it should be a foregone conclusion.

■■■■■

IMAGINE, for some reason, the Russian government handed out £8,000 to disgruntled students and political activists in this country so that they could buy aerosol cans to deface rundown estates with anti-government slogans.

Do you not think Mr Cameron might be a touch annoyed? Probably some of the people living on the estates might be a little upset about having their front door redecorated, too.

Yet incredibly, that is exactly what the British Government is doing in Kenya, through a ludicrous scheme funded out of the overseas aid budget.

Organisers of the project claim it aims to "engage with artists to spread data-based information in slums in order to empower citizens to make data-driven arguments".

No doubt many people can think of a few "data driven arguments" they would like to spray on whichever imbeciles dreamt up this scheme.

■■■■■

CONFESSION time. For something like the last 12 years I have been taking place in a tax avoidance scheme.

I'm sorry if that comes as a shock, but I honestly didn't think I was doing anything wrong. And it wasn't my fault, Gordon Brown told me to do it. Honestly.

Like millions of other people, I took the former chancellor's advice and salted some money away in an Individual Savings Account or ISA, which means I no longer have to pay tax on the pitifully low rate of interest it attracts. I guess that's the OBE out of the window, then.

■■■■■

TALKING of tax, a few years ago I received a letter telling me I had paid too much tax the previous year, and a cheque for around £1,500 was enclosed.

A short while later another one dropped through the letterbox, telling me I had paid too much tax for the two years before that, too. All very nice but given that HM Revenue and Customs managed to overcharge me in the first place you may understand my scepticism about George Osborne's plans to take tax debts straight out of people's bank accounts.



Aged six, when she became a star, with mum Sharon



The singer ready to perform at the family piano



Connie in action during her tour of South Korea

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

ARE the Liberal Democrats still a mainstream political party?

A look at the lists of candidates nominated for council elections in the West Midlands would suggest not. They have only managed to put someone up to stand for them in just over a quarter of the seats up for grabs in the Black Country, Cannock Chase and Wyre Forest.

Nick Clegg was the butt of Labour's joke in its latest party political broadcast, a snide piece of class warfare that was an unfunny parody of B-movie sci-fi combined with Harry Enfield's Mr Cholmondeley Warner; with not a single piece of policy to be seen.

It portrayed the Lib Dem leader as an "un-credible shrinking man" over broken promises such as scrapping tuition fees. The sad thing for the Deputy Prime Minister is he's a man being kicked when he is down.

And while the Black Country was never really Liberal Democrat heartland, pop over the border into Cannock Chase and it was only four years ago that they were the biggest party. Now they have people standing for them in just six out of 13 wards.

So no-one can really blame Labour for making an appeal to the disaffected voters who have abandoned the Lib Dems. They need a champion and Ed Miliband wants to be it.

Shrewd

It's a shrewd, if spitefully handled, move to try to bring them into the fold, given that the European Union cheerleaders stand utterly opposed to the prime raison d'être of UKip (Wolverhampton's recent ex-Lib Dem turned UKip councillor Malcolm Gwinnett aside).

I rang up the Lib Dem press office to put the question of whether they are still a mainstream party to them. The man who answered the phone sounded as though it was the most ridiculous thing he'd ever heard, as though I was asking if the sun was going to rise tomorrow. He replied: "Well, of course we are, we're in government."

Later on I got the reply that the party was still fielding more candidates than UKip anywhere else in the country. After weeks of reading about the Eurosceptics, I wouldn't blame anyone for having Farage Fatigue. But UKip are presenting themselves as a mainstream party now – around here anyway. They have a fraction of the party membership of the Tories but managed to stand in the vast majority of wards.

The Conservatives, as the senior party in Government, should be standing everywhere without exception. But they failed to apply to put anyone up in West Bromwich Central, leaving a two-horse race – Labour and UKip. Anyone there who might put themselves to the right of centre may feel pretty cheeched off at the lack of choice.

On song Connie's hope for stardom

CRAIG HUGHES looks at how the future is panning out for one of our brightest young stars, Connie Talbot

SHE stole the hearts of the nation as the angelic little girl with the sensational singing voice and gap-toothed grin.

It seems a long time ago since Connie Talbot started the road to stardom on Britain's Got Talent.

Now almost seven years later and at the age of 13, the Streetly singer is still proving a hit with an army of fans across the world.

The teenager has more than 158,000 Twitter followers and most recently performed to sell-out crowds in South Korea.

Forthcoming concerts will be in Indonesia and Taiwan this summer, and she met a string of famous faces including George Clooney, Carly Rae Jepsen to The Wanted.

Despite worldwide fame she has managed to stay grounded and still attends school in the West Midlands, rather than have a home tutor, and tours are planned around her holidays.

Her success has only helped to whet the appetite for more and Connie has dreams of going on to become a fully-fledged pop star.

"Hopefully in the future I will be doing my own songs and practising instruments," she tells us, shortly after arriving home from playing out with friends.

"I would really like to be a pop star. I like Taylor Swift."

Connie shot to prominence in 2007 when she wowed Simon Cowell and his fellow judges with a rendition of Over the Rainbow.

Her debut album went on to sell over 250,000 copies and reached number one in three countries.

Since then whenever the youngster



The teenager is writing her own songs, and plays both the piano and guitar

posted recordings of herself on YouTube it has received millions of hits.

The worldwide draw she continues to have was further proven on her recent trip to Korea.

She performed in three sell-out concerts with 1,200 fans each time during a week-long tour during the Easter break.

It promoted her album Beautiful World, but also coincided around the time of the tragic ferry disaster which rocked the whole country and made headlines across the world.

It saw the kind-hearted teenager pledge to donate profits from her concerts to help families of the victims.

"It was really sad, everyone was really down over there. I had heard it all over the news," Connie says.

"I felt really bad for all the people, they are so welcoming, it was just unbelievably tragic."

And of the decision to donate to the cause, she admits: "Everyone was really grateful, it was the least we could do."

Her mother Sharon says it was a sad

experience, but the reaction to Connie

had been fantastic. "It was such a sad time to go with the ferry incident," she says. "But she had such a welcome to Korea. They just loved her. There were people turning up who couldn't get a ticket and they were waiting."

Her success in music has given the schoolgirl the chance to visit the world

and perform in front of thousands of fans, the most believed to be around 25,000 at the O2 Arena.

Sharon says it is has been an experience for the entire family and great opportunity for them to have travelled the globe. Occasionally Sharon and husband Gavin, 46, will bring Connie's brother Joshua, 20, and sister Mollie, 18 along.

"It has been interesting seeing different cultures and meeting really nice people. It has given Connie a lot to see the world."

Despite other interests like any other teenager girl it is still music which plays an important part in Connie's life.

"She is doing a lot of songwriting herself to make it in England she realises you have got to get your own material together," says Sharon.

"In her heart she would like to be a pop star. I think she will do pop ballads, maybe like Beyoncé."

Even with her fame, education still remains at the forefront for Connie, and maintaining her friends group.

"Connie loves school. We never have to ask her to do any homework," her mother says.

Connie agrees. "I do like to be at school," she adds, saying that her favourite subjects are "music, English and art". I do a lot of practicing on the piano and guitar," she adds.

Connie regularly treats fans to her favourite songs recorded to camera at her home and then uploaded on YouTube.

But the video which still reigns supreme is her Britain's Got Talent audition in which she blew the audience away with Somewhere Over The Rainbow. It has attracted more than 122 million views.

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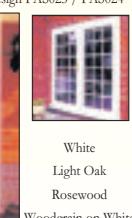
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Don't let Black Country capital decline

I VISITED Stourbridge last week for the first time since the new Tesco opened in the Crown Centre. I was very impressed with the way the Crown Centre has been re-decorated and the model of the Stourbridge Lion — the first locomotive to run in the United States — is a very attractive and interesting feature.

The Crown Centre now looks very smart and I also noticed the quality of the shops in Victoria Passage and the Ryemarket. Stourbridge is definitely improving and the town always seems busy.

Air service should not be a charity

WHY is it that this Government will not foot the bill for air ambulances? Why is it that air ambulances have to rely totally on public donations? Why is it not part of the NHS funding?

Each air ambulance costs approximately £6.2m per year, a drop in the ocean for the NHS multi-billion pound budget.

Thousands of lives have been saved by air ambulances since they were introduced, by reaching patients with life threatening conditions, where wheeled ambulances cannot reach and also within 'the golden hour'. If patients are treated within this period, their chances of survival are greatly improved.

In Australia, a vast country, the 'flying doctor' service has been in operation for many decades to reach remote places, to medically treat patients, but is not funded by the 'goodwill' of Australians.

A PARKER
Willenhall

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Let's get rid of all of this street clutter

I AM very disappointed at the level of 'street clutter' on the high street recently.

Street clutter such as irresponsibly placed shop advertising signs (A-boards) and pavement cafe furniture can obstruct and hamper a person's progress on the street.

Retailers need to realise that street clutter items such as these are major obstacles for pedestrians, especially those that are blind or partially sighted.

A recent survey by Guide Dogs for their Streets Ahead campaign showed 97 per cent of those with sight loss experience problems with street clutter regularly.

A decluttered high street not only makes it a safer place for those who are blind or partially sighted, but also a nicer, more inviting place for all shoppers.

I would like your readers to join me in a campaign to ask the council to tackle poorly placed A-boards and pavement cafe furniture so that our high street pavements can be reclaimed for pedestrians!

Please email campaigns@guidedogs.org.uk for more information about their campaign and survey findings.

LISA WHARTON
King'swinford

No real life going on in the soaps

I DON'T know what anybody else thinks about TV soaps but I've stopped watching Emmerdale.

These are some of the things that get me. In the past, it seems anybody can be a mechanic. We all know that's not possible with today's cars.

In that small boozier about five work, in and out like yo-yos. Nobody seems to lock the doors. Where do all the kids disappear to when all the parents are in the pub? The whole show is a bad advert for drink awareness. I don't think the Dingles have any food in the fridge it's all cans of beer.

The only other thing is a murder or someone pegging it. The marriages last about a month but then with all this shouting at one another who would fancy living like that day in day out?

These script writers want to get a grip and put a bit of sunshine in these soaps for a change.

F H JENNINGS
Birmingham

Each air ambulance costs approximately £6.2m per year, a drop in the ocean for the NHS multi-billion pound budget.

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Guide dog Willow gives birth to litter of 14 pups

AND they call it puppy love... meet this adorable litter of labradors and their mother Willow, who are to be the live-in companions for blind people in the region.

These 14 guide dog puppies are tiny bundles of fluff at just six days old but in weeks to come they will begin training to help blind and partially sighted people. They are currently keeping their minders awake around the clock with bottle feeds every two hours.

Retired couple Tony and Margaret Creed, both 68, from Norton, have been involved with the Guide Dog for the Blind Association for 18 years and were first introduced to Willow when they began puppy walking her.

Scanned

Mr Creed said: "Willow is now three and a half years old and she had her first litter in February 2013. She had ten pups the first time round and on now she has given birth to an incredible litter of 14 pups."

Willow was scanned and it was thought she was carrying a litter of eight, so the couple were shocked by the eventual outcome.

Mr Creed added: "She had 14 puppies over 12 hours but is doing fine."

In total Willow gave birth to nine females and five males and both the mother and her pups are healthy.

Willow's pups are all to be given names starting with the letter S, with one puppy being called Star after the couple's favourite newspaper, the Express & Star, The Chronicle's sister daily.

The couple are being kept busy helping Willow with feeds every two hours and will have their hands full for the next six weeks until the puppies are old enough to leave their mother. They



Labrador Willow has 14 new mouths to feed as do the Guide Dogs organisation



Tony Creed and Louise Bradshaw look after Willow and her puppies

will then go to the Guide Dog's National Breeding Centre in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

From there the puppies are sent to puppy walkers and for the first twelve months of a guide dogs life, they live with their puppy walker who gets them used to every day life.

When the puppies are one year old they go back to Guide Dog's National

Breeding Centre for more training and are then matched to a blind person.

It costs £50,000 to breed, train and support a guide dog during its working life but Guide Dogs get no Government funding. Meanwhile, when someone loses their sight, Guide Dogs are there to make sure they don't lose their freedom as well. For more information see www.guidedogs.org.uk

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Craig sees his new business take off



Craig Mason, who has started a Tae Kwon Do martial arts business at his home in Littleton Road, New Invention

A MARTIAL arts enthusiast has taken the plunge and set up his own business after being made redundant six months ago. Craig Mason worked as a machinist at Point 8 in Halesowen Road, Dudley, making interiors and displays for libraries, schools and museums.

He was made redundant in November last year after being employed by the company for 26 years. He said: "I have been doing Tae Kwon Do for around six years having trained at Bloxwich Tae Kwon Do Club and I really enjoy it so I decided to take the plunge and start my own classes."

The 45-year-old of Lyttleton Road, New Invention, will run sessions every Tuesday night at Tipton's Royal Society of Arts Academy in Bilton Road from 7pm to 8pm. He hopes to add more classes in the future. For more information visit www.westmidstkd.co.uk or call 07877 150691.

Poundland sales soar to near the £1bn mark

BOSSES at Poundland have said customers' support was behind a record-breaking year for sales – and insisted they will make even more progress next year.

This message came as Willenhall-based Poundland revealed it has seen sales soar to almost £1 billion over the last year in another record-breaking performance.

The £1-for-everything chain, which floated on the stock market earlier this year, said total sales had risen by 13.3 per cent to £997.8 million.

Value

In its trading update it said it would be delivering 'good underlying profit performance', expected to be around £27m.

The company, with its headquarters in Willenhall and a major distribution base in Bilton, is also piloting on the new stores, with another 70 opening over the next 12 months giving it 528 stores across the UK and Ireland.

It plans to open another 60 this year, as well as launching 10 in Spain over the next two years.

Poundland boss Jim Mc-

by Simon Penfold

Carthy said: "Poundland delivers amazing value to our customers every day and millions of them, across the UK and Ireland, are voting with their purses and wallets every week."

The sales figure from the chain has underlined the soaring success of the business. Started from an upstairs rented office in Sedgley and built on the basis of selling everything for a £1, Poundland has become a UK retail powerhouse.

Its flotation on the stock market saw its shares rocket in value as investors raced to grab a share of the business. A growing number of middle-class shoppers have joined the queues as part of what experts have dubbed the 'flight to value'.

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Bilston Scouts Old Boys football team pose for a picture to record the 1913-14 players



Smartly-dressed Scouts in 1914 just before they all signed up



Members of 1st Bilston Scouts line up for a group picture on a trip to Barmouth

Scouting footballers who joined up to fight for their King and Country

IT is a photograph that thousands of young men have posed for over the years.

Preparing for a new football season members of the Bilston Scouts Old Boys 1913-14 gathered for a team photograph.

But a little over a year later every member of the group had bravely answered their country's call for duty in the First World War.

Like so many of their era, the boys, most of whom were between the ages of 17 and 19, had quickly become men.

Twelve members of the 1st Bilston Scout group signed up for the Great War on the same day in September 1914. Two did not return home.

The photographs feature Lance Corporal William Harpin and Corporal Arthur Flavell, 23, who were both killed in action in France.

Another of those pictured is believed to be W T Morgan, who went on to become a

MEMORY LANE by Peter Madeley

lieutenant-colonel, while others are thought to include Jack Turton, Wilf Jay, H Steward and a Mr Darby. Sadly others captured in the photograph remain unknown, their identities lost over the years.

The men were paid tribute to at a St George's Day service in the Bilston Town Hall.

Denis Evans is treasurer of the 1st Bilston Scout Group - which is thought to be the oldest in the world having been founded in 1908, the same year Robert Baden-Powell published his book Scouting for Boys.

He said the ceremony was a fitting tribute to a fine body of men.

"It puts it all into perspective when you look at the pictures," said the 71-year-old, who was made an MBE for his services to the Scouting movement.

"They were all youngsters getting ready

for the football season and enjoying their time as Scouts. Then within a short time they are preparing for war.

"They didn't know what they were getting into. They felt it was their duty to join up. They were all brave. They just thought it was the right thing to do."

"We wanted to pay tribute to the group and pay our respects to all scouts who were lost during the war."

The ceremony featured a performance of the Last Post, played on the bugle by Karen Mason, great-niece of William Harpin.

The Bilton-born lance corporal, served with the 3rd (The King's Own) Hussars and was killed in action in France in October 1915.

Mrs Mason, who lives in Bilston, said she had not known her great-uncle had been a Scout until she was contacted by Mr Evans.

"We knew he was buried in France, but part of the family tree had got lost over the years," she said.

"My granddad had a number of brothers and two of them were killed in the war, but

we didn't realise William had died so early. To see that he hadn't been forgotten was wonderful."

The 1st Bilston group had been given the photograph clipped from a newspaper of the day showing the 12 boys who joined up at the outbreak of the war when celebrating its 100th birthday in 2008.

Mr Evans managed to track William Harpin down to a home address in Great Bridge Road, Bilston. Through that he was able to trace relatives. Mr Evans also discovered that Mr Harpin had worked for Joseph Sankey, Bilton.

He was 18 when he died having served for up to 18 months. It is known that many teenagers gave false ages in their enthusiasm to sign up.

Cpl Flavell proved even more of a challenge since the letter on the roll call initially appeared to spell the surname as Havell. But once that confusion had been resolved he was finally found to have lived in Coseley. Mr Evans continued: "It took a lot of work but was well worth all the effort."



Time for food - the 1st Bilston Scouts on a trip to Barmouth



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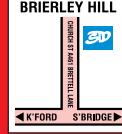
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An Express & Star supplement

Poll will decide balance of power

Election 2014

IN DUDLEY the controlling Labour group and the opposition Tories are defending 12 seats each at the May 22 elections. Ukip and Greens will be contesting every seat.

Last time Dudley voters went to the polls, Labour seized control from Conservatives. Districts within Tory ranks have seen Les Jones and wife Karen Shakespeare sitting as Independent Conservatives, whilst Ken and Hazel Turner have joined Ukip. Independent Conservative Ray Burton stands down.

Amblecote: Colin Banks (Con)* (new candidate), Paul Bradley (Ukip), Harold Hanson (Lib Dem), Glenn Horton (Lab), Catherine Maguire (Green)

Belle Vale: Ian Cooper (Lab), Robert Heeley (Ukip), John Payne (Green), Tarsem Singh Sidhu (Con)* (new candidate)

Brierley Hill: Gordon Elcock (Green), Raymond Franklin (Ukip), Zafar Islam (Lab)*, Dan Jones (Con)

Brockmoor & Pensnett: Judy Foster (Lab)*, Susan Longmore (Ukip), Nicola Richards (Con), Ben Sweeney (Green)

Castle & Priory: Alan Finch (Lab)*, Lisa Fisher (Green), Mick Forsyth (Ukip), David Simms (Con)

Coseley East: Adrian Crossen (Green), Martin Duffield (Con), Star Etheridge (Ukip), Ken Griffiths (BNP), Sue Ridney (Lab)*

Cradley & Walscote: Steve Clark (Con), Tim Crumpton (Lab)*, Karlie Marie Owen (Green), Lee Sergeant (Ukip)

Gornal: Serena Craigie (Lab), Roger Scott-Dow (Ukip), Francis Sheppard (Green), Tim Wright (Con)*

Halesowen North: Daniel Archer (Green), Stuart Henley (Ukip), Jeff Hill (Con)*, Elizabeth Keenan (Lab)

Pedmore & Stourbridge East: Julie



The prize to be in charge at Dudley Council House, borough seat of power

Halesowen South: Dave Austin (Lab), Nicholas Gregory (Con)* (new candidate), John Marshall (Ukip), Tim Weller (Green)

Hayley Green & Cradley South: Andrea McGarry (Lab), Colin Royle (Green), Adrian Turner (Ukip)

Kingswinford North & Wall Heath: Lynn Boleyn (Lab)*, Liz Jednog (Green), Natalie Neale (Con), Mike Rumble (Ukip)

Kingswinford South: Vicky Duckworth (Green), Alan Etheridge (Ukip), Patrick Harley (Con)*, Shaz Saleem (Lab)

Lye & Stourbridge North: Pete Lowe (Lab)*, Asan Mishaq (Con), Dennis Nevile (Green), Sarah Wilson (Ukip)

Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews: Stephen Daniels (Ukip), Bill McCormish (Green), Kamran Razzaq (Con), Elaine Taylor (Lab)* (new candidate)

Norton: Pam Archer (Green), Christopher Brammall (Lib Dem), Rob Clarke (Lab), Colin Elcock (Con)*, David Powell (Ukip)

Wollaston & Stourbridge Town: Nicolas Barlow (Con), Barbara Deeley (Ukip), Margaret Hanson (Lib Dem), Lawrence Rowlett (Green), Barbara Sykes (Lab)*

Worsley: Maurice Archer (Green), Paul Brothwood (Ukip), John Jones (Con)*, Su Lowe (Lab)

*incumbent party

Baines (Lab), Simon Hanson (Lib Dem), Liz Tilly (Green), Glen Wilson (Ukip), Mike Wood (Con)* (new candidate)

Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood: Martin Cotterell (Green), David Sparks (Lab)*, Helen Wimlett (Ukip), Tim Wood (Con)

Sedgley: Bill Etheridge (Ukip), Wayne Male (Lab), Janet Sheppard (Green), Tina Westwood (Con)*

St Thomas's: Khurshid Ahmed (Lab)*, Malcolm Davis (Con), Christian Kiever (Green), Philip Rowe (Ukip)

St Thomas's: Christian Green (Green), Daryl Millward (Con), Steve Waltho (Lab)*, Phil Wimlett (Ukip)

Upper Gornal & Woodsetton: Doreen Ameson (Con)*, Dean Perks (Ukip), Jez Pettifor (Green), Tracy Wood (Lab)

Wollaston & Stourbridge Town: Nicolas Barlow (Con), Barbara Deeley (Ukip), Margaret Hanson (Lib Dem), Lawrence Rowlett (Green), Barbara Sykes (Lab)*

Worsley: Maurice Archer (Green), Paul Brothwood (Ukip), John Jones (Con)*, Su Lowe (Lab)

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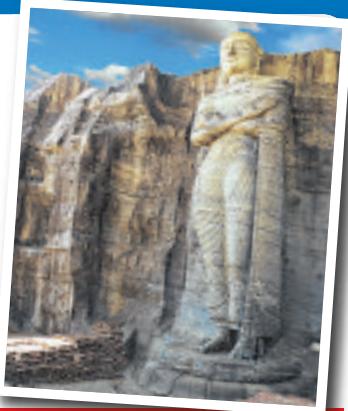
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Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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Helping hands keeping history alive at museum

IT HOUSES more than 60,000 objects and occupies 26-acres of land.

Bringing history to life at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley is not an easy task.

But a team of around 160 volunteers help make it all possible.

Unpaid workers assist in the conservation and care for the collections at the attraction and promote the museum's work.

A range of roles are carried out by volunteers at the museum including restoration work, fronting demonstrations, public talks and lectures and archival research.

Bosses are seeking younger volunteers to sign up after securing a £263,300 grant from the Arts Council England's Strategic Support Fund. The cash will also be used for the commissioning of bespoke film productions and new digital projects.

Enthusiasm

Museum spokeswoman Laura Wakelin said: "We are very grateful to our volunteers for their additional support and enthusiasm. So much so that we are looking to expand our volunteer base by creating volunteering opportunities for young people aged 16 to 25 in the Black Country with some funding that we have recently secured from Arts Council England's Strategic Support Fund."

There is a still active Friends of the Black Country Museum group which was the driving force behind the formation and opening of the museum in the 1970s. Since then members have supported the attraction by collecting exhibits, manning displays, promoting the museum, organising events and making donations. The Friends group meet monthly for a programme of talks, walks and visits to other places of interest.



Costumed characters pictured in the village at the Black Country Living Museum

The Motor Company volunteers meet on a weekly basis at the museum to maintain and restore the vast collection of vintage vehicles and to regularly operate the vehicles around the village.

Volunteers also assist in the operation of the trolleybus system and maintain the overhead wire systems, also providing drivers for the museum's electric tramway.

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THIS escorted holiday combines Hong Kong and Bangkok, with a stay on the bank of the River Kwai followed by the chance to rest and relax in a beach-side resort.

The first part of the holiday is spent in Hong Kong where there is plenty of time to explore this extraordinary place. There are also two optional excursions on offer. A Hong Kong Island tour, which will highlight some of the main attractions and a visit to the former Portuguese colony of Macau, located 40 miles across the Pearl River Delta.

An internal flight takes you to Bangkok where there is an included guided tour of this wonderful city followed by a khlong canal cruise. You will also be taken to the floating markets at Damnoen Saduak and the 70-acre Rose Garden on another included excursion.

Perhaps the highlight of the holiday will be the included River Kwai and 'Death Railway' excursion, journeying on the train to Nam Tok Sai Yok Noi on the infamous route through the Thai jungle.

Finally you arrive at the picture postcard resort of Cha-Am, set beside the blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand where you can relax and enjoy this beachside hotel. Again two optional excursions are offered to nearby Hua Hin, the favourite holiday resort of the Thai Royal family, and the riverside town of Phetchaburi.

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Music in the air at meeting

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

MUSIC was in the air at the circle's May meeting.

Entertainment was provided by the Brandhall Community Centre Choir directed by its conductor Tracy Bright.

She was as sparkly as her sequined, red 'Dorothy' shoes, which were a Christmas present from her choir and are now her trademark.

She is also a talented flautist and singer and gave a very emotional rendition of Somewhere Over The Rainbow.

The mixed choir sang with enthusiasm and its medley of songs included hits by Bon Jovi and the Beatles to the musicals The Lion King and Les Misérables.

The repertoire was extremely varied with plenty of audience participation.

The next meeting, on June 5, will also be a musical evening involving The B Cupa Ukulele Players. It will be at the Royal British Legion, Kingswinford, at 7.45pm.

Members old and new will receive a warm welcome.

Jan takes on post of president again

SI WOLVERHAMPTON

THE recent AGM saw the club move towards its 77th year when members reviewed activities during the previous year.

They thanked outgoing president Parkash Krishan and her executive committee, before welcoming their new president Jan Beason.

Jan served as president in 2004-05 and in her inaugural address thanked the club for inviting her to be it again.

She had thought about a theme for her year and realised the club already have a theme - Goodwill, Understanding and Friendship as part of our objects and purposes of Soroptimist.

These words are important not only in our Soroptimist life but also our daily life. They help us through difficult times and contribute to our good times.

Her charity this year is Promise Dreams, a local charity dedicated to making dreams come true for seriously and terminally ill children.

She has three events so far planned: a 40s evening in July, a music night and a night at the dogs.

Parkash Krishan presents the new president Jan Beason

Members have a laugh over their lunch

WOLVERHAMPTON WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB

HUMOUR was on the menu at Wolverhampton Women's Luncheon Club April meeting at The Lindens.

After the meal, the speaker was David Howe, who had been a teacher, school inspector, a writer and historian. His talk was entitled Laughter - the Best Medicine.

David said he knew Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre well and men-

tioned some of the actors who had played there before becoming well known, such as Leonard Rossiter, Kenneth More, Max Miller and Wolverhampton-born Gwen Berryman - Doris Archer in The Archers.

He told stories about comedians Willy Rushton, Marty Feldman and

Tony Hancock and their humour and how women entertainers tend to do observation comedy.

He mentioned tribute shows, such as Joyce Grenfell, and the taboos including jokes about divorce and death.

He told several jokes attributed to various entertainers.

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Passenger arrives to play Bullring concert

SHOPPERS got a surprise when pop singer Passenger performed an impromptu busking set in the middle of a busy city centre.

Hundreds of people out and about in Birmingham's Bullring Square stopped to listen to the singer as he played guitar and sang hits including the ever-popular Let Her Go.

Word quickly spread via social media last week that the 29-year-old was in the city and that he would be performing there after he tweeted his intentions.

It is the latest impromptu busking performance by Passenger, whose real name is Michael Rosenberg.

He has been performing in cities around the country trying to raise awareness of magazine the Big Issue.

Lunchtime

Ahead of Wednesday's performance, Passenger took to Twitter to tempt fans by revealing he would be in the second city.

He wrote: "Birmingham- you guys up for a busk tomorrow lunchtime? Details in the morning x".

People who saw the lunchtime performance also took to Twitter to express their delight.

One fan, Elle, tweeted: "The beauty of going to school in Birmingham is going to watch Passenger busk in your lunch break."

Another called Craig Martin wrote: "Nice to see Passenger busking in Birmingham this afternoon."

Chellsie Cochrane messaged Passenger to say: "You did an amazing set in Birmingham today, brightened up my afternoon."

Passenger has been writing a blog about his busking tour for the Big Issue.



Passenger, aka Michael Rosenberg, shares a joke during his Bullring



BIRMINGHAM - I'll be busking just near the statue of the bull in the bullring shopping centre. Gonna start at 12ish. See ya there
XX

The message on @passengermusic about the singer's performance

He has already passed through Brighton and London and will also visit Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The Brighton-born singer spent many years busking before making his name in the music industry.

Passenger was previously a five piece band but when they split, Rosenberg decided to keep the band name. His best known hit is Let Her Go,

which reached number one in more than 17 countries and peaked at number two in the UK.

Let Her Go is the only million seller single released in 2013 not to have gone to Number 1. Passenger is currently working on his fifth studio album which will be called Whispers and will be released next month. He will go on tour throughout the UK.

Square in a spin for chance to win big

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

A GAME show-inspired giant wheel will get shoppers in a spin this Friday and Saturday at New Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich.

There will be thousands of fashion related prizes up for grabs with one lucky winner being named Fashion King or Queen of the Square!

Taking place between 11am and 3pm, shoppers will be invited to take a spin on the Wheel of Fashion to be in with a chance of winning one of the thousands of prizes on offer, which include: shopping vouchers, cinema tickets, free meals and a grand prize worth £300!

Just like the 'Wheel of Fortune', whatever section of the wheel the participants land on will determine if they win - top prizes for the event have been supplied by River Island, Odeon, Outfit Fashion, Nando's, Tesco, JD Sports, Primark, Subway, O2, Phones 4u and Bank.

All those who spin the Wheel of Fashion will be entered into a draw to win the grand prize.

The winner, who will be picked at random, will enjoy a fashionable day and night at the shopping centre.

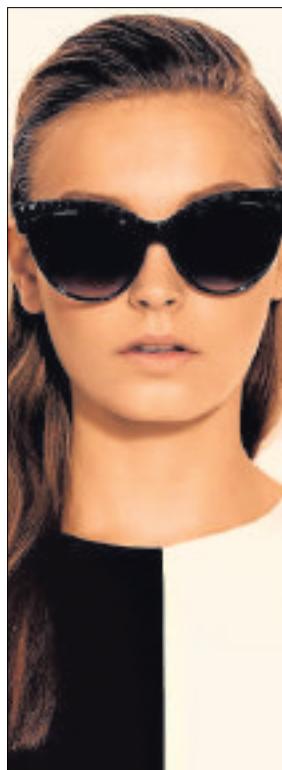
The prize includes £300 worth of shopping vouchers, lunch, dinner, free parking and cinema tickets.

The wheel will be situated on a specially designed stage within the mall area of the shopping centre on Friday.

Steve Burr, Centre Manager at New Square, said: "I'm looking forward to giving away a lot of prizes over the two days and as well as crowning one very lucky winner Fashion King or Queen of New Square!"



Stripes are in with the latest designs available at New Square shops



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Send birthday card to police

CHILDREN are being encouraged to pick up their colouring pencils and paints to design a birthday card celebrating 40 years of West Midlands Police.

They are asking youngsters to send in designs in any medium to them via twitter, email or post. All designs will feature in a dedicated online Flickr album.

There are three age categories with prizes of a £50 vouchers for age six and under, 7-11 years and 11-17 years. There are also runner-up prizes and commemorative pin badges available.

Entries are welcome from individuals, schools or groups. Each entry should specify the child's name, age, area they live in and contact details for a parent or guardian so the force can contact competition winners.

Deadline for entries is July 20 this year.

Couple enjoyed a diamond day



Jean and Ken Webb celebrate their diamond anniversary

IT seems a diamond couple were destined to spend their lives together after a lay preacher christened his future son-in-law. Jean and Ken Webb have celebrated 60 happy years of marriage, having met as children attending church in Lye.

Jean's father Walter, who was a lay preacher at the church, met Ken before Jean was even born having christened his daughter's future husband.

Jean, aged 80 from Vicarage Road in Wollaston, said: "When Ken and I got together my father actually remembered Christening my husband. We both went to the same church, but the first time we really saw each other we were both taking part in a pantomime called Cinderella."

Jean and former insurance broker Ken, now 83, got engaged and were married 12 months later, on May 8 1954 in the baptist church in Old Hill.

On their diamond day the couple stayed at home to receive phone calls and messages from their two sons, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, then celebrated with a party and a meal out with friends.

College launch day to help school pupils

A COLLEGE is launching a work related learning day to give career advice and workshops for year nine and ten pupils at secondary schools.

Halesowen College will host the event on June 25 when a range of fun sessions will be held regarding different industries including music, fashion, accountancy, beauty, marketing and apprenticeship opportunities.

There will also be information about different careers and courses.

Janet Williams, school liaison director at Halesowen College, said: "This is the first time we have held this type of event and we are very excited. It is a great idea for young people to come into college and do some activities related to the area they want to work in, or find out more about the various jobs in different industries."

"The day is mainly aimed at pupils from our partner schools."

Curfew and community order for man who made threats

A MAN armed with a dog chain shouted threats outside a house because he thought the occupants had called the police about his friend, a court heard.

Simon Carr's friend had been involved in a dispute with two people at a house in Grange Court, Stourbridge, over drugs and a missing mobile phone, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The court heard that the homeowners had called the police, leading to Carr visiting the ad-

dress in Grange Court later that night on September 4, armed with a dog chain and a wooden bat.

Miss Siobhan Collins, prosecuting, said: "Carr and another man shouted threats from outside the front door of the property.

Stamp

"He told the male 'I'll stamp on your head' and shouted 'get out if you think you're tough

"He was also abusive to the female occupant."

The court heard when police arrived at the

scene they found Carr with a dog lead and a 50cm bat which had his name written on it.

"He told police he had the dog chain because his dog had run off," added Miss Collins.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said Carr, aged 23, had been in custody for the past three months after breaching a curfew order on February 4.

He said: "It has been a difficult experience for him. He has tried to access help for mental health issues whilst in prison."

Carr, of Stourbridge Road, Lye, pleaded guilty to affray. He was sentenced to a two-year community order and placed on a 12-week curfew.

Jewellers move after 40 years

ONE of Dudley's best-known jewellers has moved to a new shop in the town.

Reed Johnson and Sons have launched the new store in the town's Churchill Precinct and bosses said its first week of trading had been 'very positive'.

The company was based on Birdcage Walk for 40 years but moved after footfall declined. Owner David Johnson said the decision had not been taken lightly.

"We had been in Birdcage Walk for a very long time and moving out was very sad for all of us," he said. "However, after the closure of the Co-op store the amount of people coming into that part of the town fell. It came down to a choice between moving to a new location in the town or moving out of Dudley completely."

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NEWS
in brief

Mad hats at tea party for The Hub

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party and fair is being held at St Thomas' Church Hall in Stourbridge on Saturday May 24.

Organised by The Hub Stourbridge, it is to raise funds and awareness of their project and takes place at the Market Street venue from 11am to 3pm.

The Hub aims to provide a flexible collaborative space in Stourbridge, to connect, inspire and support local people and enterprise.

The event will offer cakes and refreshments as well as stalls and a children's craft corner, plus a drumming performance at 11. Mad hats are optional.

To find out more about The Hub Stourbridge can visit www.buzzbnk.org/hubstourbridge

Stumble date is set for August

THE annual Stourbridge Stumble will be held on Saturday, August 9, at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

The race is organised by Stourbridge Running Club and The Stumble is a 10k multi-terrain event, starting from the park.

An online entry form is available at the club's website — www.srcl.co.uk — or call Ian Clarke on (01384) 823857 for further details.

The 10k run will start at 6pm and there will also be a 3.5k fun run starting at 5pm.

There will be changing and shower facilities for runners in the park.

DOZENS of garden centre staff could see their wages cut under a consultation scheme proposed by new owners.

Some of the 59 workers at the Gardenlands Centre, Bridgnorth Road, Wolverhampton; 84 employees at the Barnett Hill centre just outside Hagley and some of the 117 staff at the Melbicks Centre in Coleshill, Birmingham, are affected by the consultation. It has been launched by new owners — The Garden Centre Group — which is proposing to reduce workers' hours, salaries, pension contributions and holiday entitlement.

Hours

THE plans affect general assistants and could see their hours cut from 40 per week down to 30, and the salaries reduced by a quarter to match. There are 220 across the six stores.

The centres are among six nationally affected by the consultation. The consultation comes after a buyout of the former company running the centres, Garden and Leisure Group.

"Our aim is to ensure we have efficient and flexible staffing structures in place to support our business for the long term."

The spokesperson added: "The review resulted in a proposal to employees to reduce their hours and we have now begun formal consultation with those employees impacted."

Their workers transferred to The Garden Centre Group on April 1.

Before that transfer took place, in February, a review and consultation on the management structure was mooted.

Now a consultation is

under way with staff on proposals to change their particulars of employment from June 23.

Affected staff at Barnett

Hill were sent a letter which proposes employees have their working hours cut, and their pay and holiday reduced.

The letter also reminded them that their future pension contributions will be based on their new reduced annual salary.

A spokesperson for The Garden Centre Group said: "We recently completed a review of the structure and staffing models at the garden centres acquired from Garden & Leisure Group.

"Our aim is to ensure we have efficient and flexible staffing structures in place to support our business for the long term."

The spokesperson added:

"The review resulted in a proposal to employees to reduce their hours and we have now begun formal consultation with those employees impacted."

TransAtlantic Zumba marathon day



Zumba fans and their instructors in Stourbridge joined forces for a session with a Canadian twist

CANADIAN and Stourbridge Zumba instructors joined forces to raise money for a local hospice.

Zumba lovers enjoyed a dance treat on Monday at The Fitness Factory in Stourbridge when they took part in a Zumbathon to raise money for Mary Stevens' Hospice.

Zumba instructors Gemma Webster and Diane Wassell invited Emma Moore, an instructor in Canada and a former resident of Stourbridge, to help them with the fundraising dance event.

Gemma who organised the event said: "I just thought it would make the Zumbathon a bit different."

"Although the Zumba program is the same all across the world, each country still has its own dance styles and influences."

"It was really fun to do some different moves and routines that had a Canadian twist!"

Emma, who now lives in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, used to be a member at The Fitness Factory and when she moved to Canada she de-

cided to become a Zumba instructor in her new home town. She said: "Gemma and The Fitness Factory inspired me to get into the fitness industry and when me and my family moved to Canada in 2012 it just seemed like the right move career wise."

"I am really happy to be able to come home and still be part of the community and raise money for such a wonderful cause."

The event raised more than £200 for Mary Stevens' Hospice with more than 40 members taking part.

Champ's boxing glove up for auction

BOXING fans can pack a punch for charity by bidding for a framed glove signed by a famous heavyweight champion.

Dudley Council is auctioning the glove, which belonged to Tim Witherpoon to raise money for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The left-handed glove is sealed in a glass case and signed by the twice former WBA World Heavyweight Champion. There is also a signed picture of the former American boxer, who beat Frank Bruno in defend his title in 1986.

Club

It has been donated by Priory Park Boxing Club to help raise funds for the Councillor Alan Finch's chosen charities - Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support, Dudley.

Head coach Paul Gough said the glove had been donated to the club by Bruce Thomson of Baker Goodchild which had sponsored one of its events.

"We always raise some money for the mayor's charities and both Alan and his brother Ken are big supporters of the club."

"We wanted to give something back to them and thought donating the glove would help them to raise money."

People can submit bids of more than £80 via email to mayor@dudley.gov.uk and the closing date for entries is tomorrow, Friday.

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Japan

Japan – an ancient culture of emperors, fierce shoguns, samurais and brutal martial arts. Yet it's also a place of gentle geishas, colourful kimonos, exquisite garden design and Zen Buddhism.

The tour covers three of Japan's capitals, both past and present: Tokyo, Kyoto and Nara.

There's the chance to ride on a high speed bullet train past iconic Mt. Fuji, a trip by aerial gondola to see the Owakudani 'Boiling Valley' and the option to stay at a typical Japanese inn, bathe in a hot spring, and see the spot where the first atom bomb was detonated.

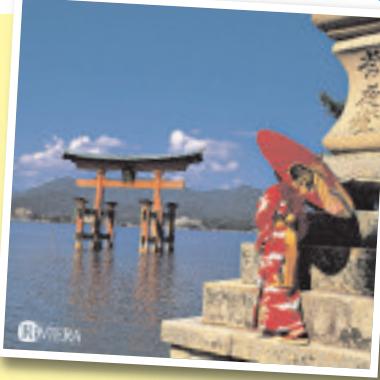
In Tokyo see its most fascinating districts, including the shopping and entertainment mecca of Ginza and the Akibahara electronic town – home to one of the first stores devoted to personal robots. Then to the north of the city there's the scenic area Nikko National Park, relatively unknown outside Japan. Surrounded by breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, forests and hot springs, a visit is made to one of the country's most extraordinary shrines – dedicated to one of its great Shogun warriors.

Kyoto, still considered to be its cultural heart has carefully retained far more of historical Japan than any other major city. With exquisite shrines, temples, Zen gardens and traditional handicrafts, the city is an absolute treasure-trove.

Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the eighth century. Here, traditional culture first took root and is famous for its great Buddhist monuments including a large bronze buddha as well as time-honoured festivals.

Hiroshima is forever destined to be synonymous with the world's first use of an atomic bomb and a visit is made to the Peace Memorial Park and museum, with the shattered remains of the nearby dome marking the epicentre of the blast.

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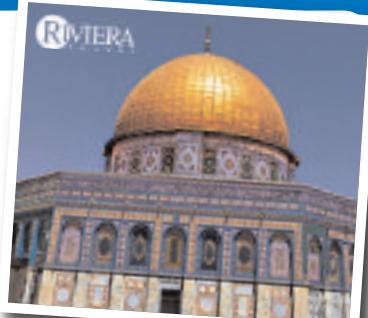
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* varies according to departure date – please go to website for the latest availability and prices

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Storehouse aims to invest in better future

A 16-month project to transform a former garage in Brierley Hill into a £500,000 The The community centre has been completed.

The premises were bought by members of the Albion Street Church congregation, which numbers around 60.

The Storehouse boasts a range of facilities including a coffee lounge, a multi-media meeting room and an synthetic turf activity area.

Storehouse project manager Trevor Fielding, aged 44, has spent more than a year converting the building which was last used as a food distribution centre.

Graft

It was bought by the church congregation for £325,000 and work started in January 2013.

Mr Fielding initially offered the church a couple of weeks' labour but has remained to see the project through. Working with him nearly every day on the 10,800 sq ft site have been church members Gary Colwell, Dave Coley and Maurice Edwards.

Mr Colwell, 61, a retired assistant principal of Holly Hall Academy, said: "It's certainly been hard graft but incredibly rewarding to see everything gradually taking shape."

"We now have a fully functional, commercial quality kitchen/coffee lounge, excellent office and welfare facilities, a multi-media meeting room, Astro Turf activity area, as well as youth recreational facilities. None of this would have been possible but for the extremely generous giving of our members and others, including local businesses."

"They've donated items such as a drum kit, a sound deck and speakers, as well as direct finance. Local tradesmen have often given us preferred rates too."



Plenty of room for activities at The Storehouse community centre



Volunteers in the new youth centre room at the Storehouse in Brierley Hill

The Storehouse name is taken from the story of Joseph in the Bible when he stored grain for times of famine.

"We're investing today for a better future, a better future for those in need now and a better future for local youngsters," added Mr Colwell.

An additional £10,000 is still needed to heat the indoor activity area.

The site is shared as new headquar-

ters for The Black Country Foodbank, running since 2006. It helps individuals and families in crisis by provision of three days' emergency food supplies.

A service featuring the Caminul Felix Romanian Choir took place to mark the opening of The Storehouse.

On June 7 it hosts Dudley Volunteers Fair from 10am. An open day showcases facilities on June 21.

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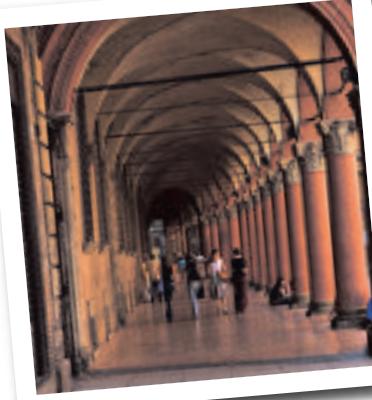
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Two days departing July 20

PRICE FROM £89.95

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The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

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Two days departing Aug 9 and Sept 27

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- Services of a tour driver
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Wimbledon

Two days departing July 5 and 6

PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
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- Full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court to see the finals of the Junior and Veteran events
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- Services of a tour manager
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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing June 15 and August 10

PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
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- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar, St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)



Thames Cruise aboard PS Waverley

Two days departing September 27



PRICE FROM £115

Cruise through the heart of London aboard the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, during this capital weekend break.

PS Waverley captures the travel of a bygone era with her magnificent 2100 horsepower steam engine and her beautiful 1940's style.

Built on the Clyde in 1947, she faced an uncertain future after coming to the end of a Preservation Society she is now a national treasure, operating passenger excursions all around Great Britain.

The cruise starts at London Tower Pier and travels along the Thames. See the Tower of London and enjoy a unique experience as Tower Bridge opens for the vessel to sail through. Pass through the heart of the London Docklands and the skyline of Canary Wharf to reach Greenwich, home of the Old Royal Observatory and Naval College, followed by the O2 Arena to reach the Thames Flood Barrier before travelling under Queen Elizabeth Bridge to Gravesend, where the cruise ends.

Visits are also made to Rochester, with its stunning Norman Castle and medieval cathedral plus Royal Greenwich with its many attractions including the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory and the Cutty Sark (some entrance fees payable locally).

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Thames Cruise on the Paddle Steamer Waverley under Tower Bridge
- Visits to Royal Greenwich and Rochester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Global curriculum has really taken off

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

OUR global curriculum has really taken off at Tenterfields Primary School in the past few years with the British Council helping to fund visits of our staff to our link schools in the Gambia.

We are very grateful to the Global Dimension Partnership, run by Dr Des Bowden and Pam Copeland at B and C Education, who organise the visits.

Last June, we were lucky enough to host the Headteacher (Mr Baboucar Jobe) and Deputy (Mr Lamin Boye) from Bijiilo Nursery in Gambia and they were able to spend time in our school and meet the children. They took part in organised curriculum activities that supported our 'Rights Respecting Schools' agenda which uses the United Nations Rights of The Child as its basis.

Sponsoring

Children, parents, staff and governors are sponsoring 40 children at the school in Gambia.

Headteacher Keith Butler said: "We have focus days in school on our global curriculum where the children across the school can explore dimensions such as global citizenship, human rights, values and perceptions, social justice and sustainability which help them to understand what it is like to be a global citizen in the 21st century.

"We have also been involved in projects such as 'Every child needs a



Headteacher Mr Jobe working with some of the children



Every child needs a teacher project teacher.



Fishing Boats at Bakau, Gambia also has links with. Children attended a mock-up of a United Nations meeting hosted by Ban Ki-moon.

Tenterfields was awarded the International Schools award in 2012 and the Rights Respecting Schools award 2013.



Tenterfields Primary School

Tenterfields Primary School

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Primary FOCUS



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'Children make a good start to their school lives in the Early Years Foundation Stage, where the lively surroundings and good teaching ensure they enjoy their learning and make rapid progress.'

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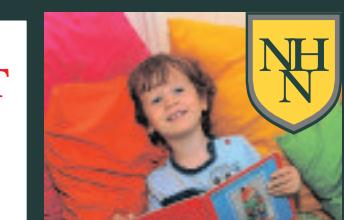
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Norfolk House Nursery is a day nursery for children aged between 3 months and 4 years

What's On!

Wild boys from the Black Country
SEVERAL boys from the Black Country will make their debut alongside professional dancers when Matthew Bourne's New Adventures stage Lord Of The Flies at Birmingham Hippodrome.

The dance version of William Golding's novel about boys turning savage continues to Saturday. It should be a highlight of the city's dance festival.

Breakin' Convention puts the hip hop in Hippodrome on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the theatre hosts Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's tango-inspired Milonga on May 23 and 24.

Cirque du Soleil bring spectacular acrobatic show Dralion to the LG Arena, from May 22 to 25 for six performances.

Mel and Marc to be Jools' guests

FORMER Spice Girl Mel C and ex-Soft Cell singer Marc Almond will be Jools Holland's guests when the boogie pianist and broadcaster brings his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday, May 21.

The band features soul singers Ruby Turner from Handsworth and Louise Marshall plus brass section featuring trombonists Winston Rollins from Birmingham and reggae legend Rico Rodriguez MBE. Support from American singer-songwriter Galia Arad.

Tickets from £35.75. Call 0870 320 7000 or visit box-office@wolvscivic.co.uk

Good golly Miss Dolly on way to warm up for Glastonbury

EofE set for pop stardom

DUDLEY band EofE are on the brink of the big time supporting supergroup McBusted on their UK tour. They have performed in front of 15,000 McFly and Busted fans at the LG Arena and are repeating the feat on Saturday night and again on May 27.

Singer Tom Harris, 17, from Netherton, a former Hillcrest Community College pupil, said: "To play these venues even a few months ago seemed like a distant dream, now we're playing to thousands and thousands of people."

The band started three years ago when Tom met guitarist Dan Bremmer, 19, from Gornal. They were joined by Gornal bassist Luke Bradley, 18, and drummer Nicky Waters, 25, from Northumberland.

Their track Kiss Me Like You Mean It is free to download at www.eofe.com/freebies/



LG Arena gigs — Dudley pop/rock band EofE, from left, Dan, Luke, Tom and Nicky

COUNTRY singing star and movie actress Dolly Parton is coming to Birmingham's LG Arena next month as she prepares to top the bill at this summer's Glastonbury Festival.

Not so much a celebrity as a force of nature, this month the 68-year-old American icon who has sold 100 million records releases her latest studio album Blue Smoke featuring ten new songs and two covers, Bob Dylan's Don't Think Twice and Bon Jovi's Lay Your Hands On Me.

It's her 42nd studio album and marks 47 years since her debut, Hello I'm Dolly in 1967.

The fourth of 12 children from a poor farming family in the Tennessee mountains, Dolly first sang at the famous Grand Ole Opry venue aged 13 and found fame in the US on television in The Porter Wagoner Show.

Her pure as mountain spring water voice and glamorous image had a massive impact, especially as she showed her feisty side with songs such as Dumb Blonde.

During the 1970s she went solo, wrote and recorded the massive hit I Will Always Love You, a tribute to Porter Wagoner, and also had success with Coat Of Many Colors, Jolene, Love Is Like A Butterfly, The Bargain Store, Here You Come Again, 9 To 5, and Islands In The Stream with Kenny Rogers.



NEC date — Dolly Parton

Dolly is in concert at the LG on Sunday, June 22, and tickets start from £55.70.

Meanwhile, Dolly Parton's wayward goddaughter Miley Cyrus will be ready to shock with her twerking antics at the NIA Arena on Friday, while X Factor winners Little Mix play the LG Arena.

Tonight Prince & 3rdEye Girl are at LG, returning to the same venue on Monday. In between McBusted play the LG Saturday and Nine Inch Nails on Sunday.

Dial-a-death thriller staged at the Rep

CHRISTOPHER Timothy stars in classic thriller Dial M For Murder, which was made into a memorable movie by Alfred Hitchcock, at Birmingham Rep until Saturday. In Lucy Bailey's version, the Grace Kelly role of potential victim is played by Kelly Hotten.

Power ballad musical Rock Of Ages is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre to Saturday and biographical rock 'n' roll musical Buddy is at Wolverhampton Grand from Monday to Saturday.

Highlights next week include an acclaimed stage version of Joseph Heller's novel about the insanity of war, Catch-22, presented by Northern Stage at Birmingham Rep from Tuesday to Saturday.

No 'do re' but lots of me from Julie

THE star of The Sound of Music and Mary Poppins will appear in An Evening with Julie Andrews at Birmingham NIA on Saturday, May 24.

Oscar-winner Dame Julie marks 65 years in show business and looks back at her career on Broadway and in Hollywood and will be taking questions from the audience. As her singing voice has been limited since a throat operation in the 1990s, the venue says 78-year-old's show on her return home to England is a speaking engagement. For many the presence of the Disney legend will be enough.

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TUESDAY 20TH MAY
PREDATORS KARAOKE

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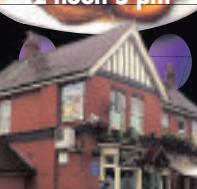
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CHOICE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellaissima. **(R) 12.00** Homes Under the Hammer. **(R) 1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics: Great Manchester City Games. **2.50** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 3.35** Escape to the Country. **(R) 4.35** Celebrity Mastermind. **(R) 5.05** Film: Enchanted. (2007) **6.45** BBC News: Regional News.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present as famous faces take part in the general knowledge quiz in which they try to come up with the least likely correct answers to a series of questions posed to members of the public. **(R)**

7.55 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side.

8.45 Casually. A couple's wedding turns sour when the bride admits a secret to the groom just minutes before the ceremony, causing him to have one drink too many then climb behind the wheel – with his new wife and their 11-year-old son also in the car. Before long, the paramedics and Ash are at the scene of a traffic accident – but when the latter tries to administer ketamine, he finds it missing from his medical bag. At the doctor's home, his teenage daughter Ella – who turns out to be the drug she has stolen from her father's case – unaware of the drama about to unfold.

9.35 The Guess List. Eamonn Holmes, Helen Skelton, Bob Mortimer, Kate Garraway and Nick Hewer help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions.

10.15 Mrs Brown's Boys. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll as a doting mother-of-six who constantly interferes in her children's lives. **(R)**

10.45 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

11.05 Film: Meet the Parents. (2000) A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father – a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly.

Comedy, starring Robert De Niro.

12.50 Film: Norbit. (2007) **2.25** Weatherview. **2.30** BBC News.

Dame Judi Dench

Bob Larbey - A Tribute (BBC2, 8pm)

TV comedy is littered with writing partnerships, with Bob Larbey and John Esmonde one of Britain's best. They met at school and their breakthrough project was set in a classroom – that of teacher John Alderton in Please Sir! They hit the big time in 1975 when the first series of The Good Life aired. Hits such as Ever Decreasing Circles and Brush Strokes followed, while Larbey branched out on his own to create the Judi Dench vehicles A Fine Romance and As Time Goes By. Esmonde died in 2008, while Larbey passed away in March this year. This documentary pays tribute to their work together, but also to Larbey's output as a 'solo artist'.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15 Film:** Dangerous Mission. (1954) **7.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 8.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.00** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.30** Great British Menu. **(R) 10.00** The Living Planet. **(R) 10.55** Coast. **(R) 11.30** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. **(R) 11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **(R) 12.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. **(R) 12.45** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. **12.50** Laurence Olivier: Talking Pictures. **1.25 Film:** Wuthering Heights. (1939) Period drama, starring Merle Oberon. **3.05 Film:** Pride and Prejudice. (1940) Period drama, starring Laurence Olivier. **5.00** Natural World: Honey Badgers – Masters of Mayhem. **(R)**

6.00 Flog It! Paul Martin and antiques experts James Lewis and Anita Manning visit Wilmot in Cheshire, where valuable items going up for auction include jewellery, toys, porcelain and a Georgian tea table.

7.00 Museums at Night. Will Gompertz is at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh for a celebration of the three-day festival during which museums and galleries open to the public after dark.

8.00 Bob Larbey – A Tribute. A celebration of the life and work of the comedy writer, who died in March. With John Esmonde he created sitcoms including The Good Life, Ever Decreasing Circles and Brush Strokes.

8.15 Comedy Connections. A look at John Esmonde and Bob Larbey's Ever Decreasing Circles, charting the careers of stars Richard Briers, Penelope Wilton and Peter Egan. **(R)**

8.55 All About The Good Life. The story of the 1970s sitcom about a couple who opted out of the rat race and turned their suburban back garden into a smallholding. With Richard Briers and Penelope Keith. **(R)**

9.55 OI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble, David Mitchell and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of knits and knots.

10.40 Film: Gone Baby Gone. (2007) A private eye searches the Boston neighbourhood where he grew up to find a missing four-year-old girl. Crime drama, starring Casey Affleck, Morgan Freeman and Michelle Monaghan.

12.25 Film: Mesrine: Killer Instinct. (2008) **2.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. **(R)** **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 6.50** Canimals. **(R) 7.00** Canimals. **(R) 7.05** Sooty. **(R) 7.20** Digimon Fusion. **(R) 7.45** Horrid Henry. **(R) 8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 9.25** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **USA, 12.25** Storage Hoarders. **(R) 1.25** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 2.10** Off Their Rockers. **(R) 2.35** Regional Programming: Weather. **2.45** ITV News: Weather. **3.00** The FA Cup Final. Arsenal v Hull City. Kick-off 5.00pm.

7.30 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the sixth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best – and worst – performers. Queueing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel.

8.00 Amazing Crews. Neil Bishop from Bournemouth and Samantha Bosher from South Tyneside take on the golden oldies, comprising bodybuilder Eric Dovey, table tennis champion Roy Norton, Antiques Roadshow expert John Bly, bowls legend Willie Wood, veteran quiz-show competitor Brian Edwards and four-time Olympic fencer Ralph Johnson.

8.15 Comedy Connections. A look at John Esmonde and Bob Larbey's Ever Decreasing Circles, charting the careers of stars Richard Briers, Penelope Wilton and Peter Egan. **(R)**

8.55 The Americans. An old foe of Philip's arrives in town with a vendetta, just as he and Elizabeth embark on a high-stakes mission, while Stan makes a discovery that could unearth the KGB spy ring within America. 1980s-set drama, starring Matthew Rhys and Keri Russell, with Noah Emmerich and Gillian Alexy.

9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class. (2011) Premiere. Telepathic mutant Charles Xavier forms the first generation of the superhero team in the 1960s. Their battle with a Nazi war criminal manipulating the world toward nuclear war gradually drives a wedge between Xavier and his ally Magneto, leading them to become deadly enemies. Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy.

10.35 Film: Top Gun. (1986) Aerial action adventure, with Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis.

1.35 Film: Brazil. (1985) **4.00** Hollyoaks. **(R)** **5.00** New Weekend.

10.00 Live Boxing: The MaxiNutrition Knockout. Coverage of the semi-finals of the light heavyweight tournament from Leeds Town Hall, which are Bob Aijisafe v Leon Senior and Travis Dickinson v Matty Clarkson.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.15** DIY Dummies. **(R) 4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.10** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.30** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 10.55** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.25** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.20** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** The Simpsons. **(R) 1.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **(R) 1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R)**

6.15 Come Dine with Me: Doctor Chintu Gad essey. Doctor Chintu Gad essey hosts the final dinner party in east London, hoping to impress with a 1980s-themed evening before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. **(R)**

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke helps restoration novices Marco and Kath Walker, who have bought a pair of 17th- and 18th-century cow barns in Wellington, Herefordshire. **(R)**

8.00 Grand Designs. Another chance to see the team's latest 100th episode, marked by one of the most ambitious projects to date. Leigh Osborne and Graham Voice want to convert and extend a landmark 150-year-old water tower in central London into a luxury home. Grade II-listed, derelict and with 6ft-thick walls, it's a huge challenge for the pair, who also plan to build two structures at the base – a lift shaft connected by a series of glass tunnels, and a modern living space. The result will be a four-bedroom property over nine floors, complete with a room at the top offering spectacular 360-degree views across the capital. **(R)**

9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class. (2011) Premiere. Telepathic mutant Charles Xavier forms the first generation of the superhero team in the 1960s. Their battle with a Nazi war criminal manipulating the world toward nuclear war gradually drives a wedge between Xavier and his ally Magneto, leading them to become deadly enemies. Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy.

10.35 Film: Top Gun. (1986) Aerial action adventure, with Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis.

1.35 Film: Brazil. (1985) **4.00** Hollyoaks. **(R)**

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.15** DIY Dummies. **(R) 4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.10** Roary the Racing Car. **(R) 5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.30** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.40** Roary the Racing Car. **(R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Police Interceptors. **(R) 11.05** Classic Car Rescue. **(R) 12.05** Film: Attack on the Iron Coast. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Lloyd Bridges. **1.55** Film: 633 Squadron. (1964) Second World War drama, starring Cliff Robertson. **3.45** Film: Columbo: The Conspirators. (1978) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.45** Film: Jesse Stone: Thin Ice. (2009) Detective thriller, starring Tom Selleck.

7.15 Longmire. Walt and Vic try to untangle a complex web of passion to find out who put a rodeo sponsor in a coma and stole one of his paintings. The prime suspect is a rider who recently had his funding cut amid accusations he was using a cattle prod to agitate the horses. But who was having an affair with the victim? And was the artwork worthless – or priceless? Guest starring Stacy Haiduk. **(The Young and the Restless).**

8.05 NCIS. The body of a Navy lieutenant is discovered during a city-wide power cut – and because Jethro and the team are unable to use their modern electronic equipment, they have to solve the case the old-fashioned way, and it soon becomes apparent that national security could be at stake. Drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. **(R)**

9.00 NCIS. The agents investigate a government organisation dedicated to child prodigies while researching the death of a marine whose body appeared in the middle of a field disguised as a scarecrow, and realise a 12-year-old could be the killer's next target. Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. **(R)**

9.55 5 New Weekend.

10.00 Live Boxing: The MaxiNutrition Knockout. Coverage of the semi-finals of the light heavyweight tournament from Leeds Town Hall, which are Bob Aijisafe v Leon Senior and Travis Dickinson v Matty Clarkson.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.15** DIY Dummies. **(R) 4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.00** Film: Remember Me (2010) **11.15** The Inbetweeners. **1.25** Rude Tube 2.25 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 **2.00** Broke Girls 3.55 Made in Chelsea 4.50 Ugly Betty.

1.00 Rude(ish) Tube 2.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.00 **3.00** The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Youngers 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 **6.30** The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 **8.00** The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Remember Me (2010) **11.15** The Inbetweeners. **1.25** Rude Tube 2.25 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 **2.00** Broke Girls 3.55 Made in Chelsea 4.50 Ugly Betty.

5.00 Film 4

11.30 Jenny Eclair 2.45 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.55 Lewis 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Foyles War 11.15 Inspector Morse 1.25 Judge Judy 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping

4.00 Close

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Doctor Who 7.45 Top Gear 8.45 Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men's Chest. (2006) **11.05** Family Guy 12.35 American Dad! 1.20 Him & Her: The Wedding 3.45 Close

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Young Musician of the Year '11. Roll Revisited – Get It On 9.00 Wallander 10.10 The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold 12.10 The Comet's Tale 1.10 The Sky at Night 1.40 The Horizon Guide to Space Shuttles 2.40 The Search for Life: The Drake Equation 3.40 Close

ITV2

11.00 Tom Daley Goes Global 11.55 Britain's Got Talent 1.00 Britain's Got More Talent 2.00 You've Been Framed! A-Z 2.00 Totally You've Been Framed! 4.10 Film: The Iron Giant (1999) 5.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) 6.00 Britain's Got More Talent 9.50 You've Been Framed! 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.10 Britain's Got Talent 12.30 Britain's Got More Talent 1.35 Viral Tap 2.05 Dad's 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

12.35 Jane Eyre 2.45 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.55 Lewis 6.55 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Foyles War 11.15 Inspector Morse 1.25 Judge Judy 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 3.30 Teleshopping 4.00 Close

ITV4

11.30 UEFA Champions League Weekly 12.05 Film: The Fair Country (1954) 2.10 Film: Guns of a Stranger (1973) 4.00 Storage Wars 6.00 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) 9.00 Film: Absolute Power (1997) 11.20 Film: Firefox (1982) 2.00 Warren United 2.25 Police, Camera, Action! 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping

ITV5

1.00 Rude(ish) 2.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.00 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Youngers 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 Film: The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Remember Me (2010) **11.15** The Inbetweeners. **1.25** Rude Tube 2.25 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 **2.00** Broke Girls 3.55 Made in Chelsea 4.50 Ugly Betty.

ITV6

11.30 Went the Day Well? (1942) 1.00 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) 3.15 The Bandit of Sherwood Forest (1946) 4.55 Carry On Abroad (1972) 6.40 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) 9.00 Monsters (2010) 10.50 Cloverfield (2008) 12.30 AVPR: Aliens vs Predator – Requiem (2007) 2.20 Lake Placid (1999) 4.00 Close



Bob Larbey - A Tribute (BBC2, 8pm)

TV comedy is littered with writing partnerships, with Bob Larbey and John Esmonde one of Britain's best. They met at school and their breakthrough project was set in a classroom – that of teacher John Alderton in Please Sir! They hit the big time in 1975 when the first series of The Good Life aired. Hits such as Ever Decreasing Circles and Brush Strokes followed, while Larbey branched out on his own to create the Judi Dench vehicles A Fine Romance and As Time Goes By. Esmonde died in 2008, while Larbey passed away in March this year. This documentary pays tribute to their work together, but also to Larbey's output as a 'solo artist'.



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CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Police Interceptors. **(R) 11.05** Classic Car Rescue. **(R) 12.05** Film: Attack on the Iron Coast. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Lloyd Bridges. **1.55** Film: 633 Squadron. (1964) Second World War drama, starring Cliff Robertson.

7.15 Longmire. Walt and Vic try to untangle a complex web of passion to find out who put a rodeo sponsor in a coma and stole one of his paintings.

The prime suspect is a rider who recently had his funding cut amid accusations he was using a cattle prod to agitate the horses.

But who was having an affair with the victim? And was the artwork worthless – or priceless? Guest starring Stacy Haiduk.

8.05 NCIS. The body of a Navy lieutenant is discovered during a city-wide power cut – and because Jethro and the team are unable to use their modern electronic equipment, they have to solve the case the old-fashioned way, and it soon becomes apparent that national security could be at stake.

Drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette.

9.00 NCIS. The agents investigate a government organisation dedicated to child prodigies while researching the death of a marine whose body appeared in the middle of a field disguised as a scarecrow, and realise a 12-year-old could be the killer's next target.

Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette.

9.55 5 New Weekend.

10.00 Live Boxing: The MaxiNutrition Knockout. Coverage of the semi-finals of the light heavyweight tournament from Leeds Town Hall, which are Bob Aijisafe v Leon Senior and Travis Dickinson v Matty Clarkson.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.15** DIY Dummies. **(R) 4.00** Wildlife SOS. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.00** Film: Remember Me (2010) **11.15** The Inbetweeners. **1.25** Rude Tube 2.25 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 **2.00** Broke Girls 3.55 Made in Chelsea 4.50 Ugly Betty.

5.00 Film 4

11.30 Went the Day Well? (1942) **1.00** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **3.15** The Bandit of Sherwood Forest (1946) **4.55** Carry On Abroad (1972) **6.40** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Monsters (2010) **10.50** Cloverfield (2008) **12.30** AVPR: Aliens vs Predator – Requiem (2007) **2.20** Lake Placid (1999) **4.00** Close

5.00 Film 4

11.30 UEFA Champions League Weekly 12.05 Film: The Fair Country (1954) 2.10 Film: Guns of a Stranger (1973) 4.00 Storage Wars 6.00 Film: Kelly's Heroes (1970) 9.00 Film: Absolute Power (1997) 11.20 Film: Firefox (1982) 2.00 Warren United 2.25 Police, Camera, Action! 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.30 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping

4.00 Close

1.00 Rude(ish) 2.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.00 **3.00** The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Youngers 5.30 How I Met Your Mother 6.00 **6.30** The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 **8.00** The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film

CHOICE

BBC1

BBC2

ITV

CHANNEL 4

CHANNEL 5

DIGITAL



Tom Hollander and Essie Davis

Dylan Thomas: A Poet in New York (BBC2, 9pm)

October 27, 2014 marks the centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas, the Swansea-born poet who is now regarded as a giant of 20th-century literature. We can expect heaps of programmes about him in the coming months, but getting in first is this drama about his final days in New York before his death at the age of 39 in November 1953. Tom Hollander plays Thomas, and the story begins as he arrives in the Big Apple, en route to Hollywood where he plans to write an opera with Stravinsky. The trip west is self-funded, but Thomas needs to raise the cash by taking part in a production of Under Milk Wood at Manhattan's prestigious Poetry Centre, followed by a tour of talks and readings – which he would never complete.

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. **2.10** Fog It! **2.50** Escape to the Country. **3.35** Points of View. **3.50** Brazil with Michael Palin. (R) **4.05** Lifeline. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2014. **6.35** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile Spring Special. The latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer, including Weather for the Week ahead.

8.00 British Academy Television Awards. Graham Norton hosts the annual ceremony celebrating the best of British TV, held at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Shows being shown for recognition include Southcliffe, The Fall, Broadchurch, The IT Crowd, The Village and Googleplex, while the entertainment performance category sees Graham himself competing against Ant and Dec, Sarah Millican and Charlie Brooker. Julie Walters will be awarded the Bafta Fellowship, marking a TV career that has taken in everything from Shakespeare to Acorn Antiques.

10.15 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Imagine: Rio 50 Degrees – Carry on or Carioca. New series. Alan Alda presents another run of arts documentaries. Brazil is less than a month away from hosting the football World Cup and in 2016 the Olympic Games will come to Rio de Janeiro. As the eyes of the world prepare to focus on the city, documentary filmmaker Julian Temple explores its cultural history, which is one of extremes. While many see it as a tropical paradise, it remains divided by class and ravaged by poverty, enduring an ongoing fight between police and the drug lords from the slums. The film is soundtracked with the exhilarating samba music that has both reflected and influenced the decades of social change in the city.

12.15 Film: City of Men. (2007) Premiere. Crime drama, with Douglas Silva and Darian Cunha. **1.55** Weatherview. **2.00** BBC News.

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Affair with a Stranger. (1953) **7.35** Film: Safari. (1956) **9.00** Gardeners' World. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Live Athletics: Great Manchester Run. **12.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **2.00** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Magazine series presented by Gabby Logan. **2.30** Live Gymnastics: European Championships. The final day of the women's event from Sofia, Bulgaria. **4.30** Triathlon.

6.00 Athletics: Great Manchester Run. Jonathan Edwards presents highlights of the 12th staging of the event, as approximately 40,000 runners took part in a race that has become an annual favourite on the calendar. Several of the leading distance runners in the world were expected to be in attendance, along with a number of celebrity competitors.

7.00 Australia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer meets members of one of the most notorious and feared motorcycle gangs in Gold Coast, before heading to the suburbs to meet a vet and his team rescuing and treating injured koalas. In Sydney, he chats to a billionaire who made his fortune in housing for new migrants from Asia and visits the country's first Muslim women's Australian rules football team. On the last leg of his journey, Simon takes to the air to witness devastating and deadly fires ripping through the Bush, before celebrating Australia Day at his final destination of Melbourne. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The Best of Top Gear. Another selection of highlights from the last two series, looking back at Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May's most memorable stunts and best challenges.

9.00 Dylan Thomas: A Poet in New York. Tom Hollander stars in this drama charting the poet's final days. In 1953 Dylan Thomas went to New York for the last time, his marriage a wreck and his drinking out of control. He was on his way to meet Stravinsky and to bask in New York acclaim – but what was he escaping and how did the intended triumph become a requiem?

10.20 Film: Edge of Darkness. (2010) Thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone and Danny Huston.

12.05 Film: Sus. (2010) **1.35** Film: Catch a Fire. (2006) **3.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **4.05** Holby City. (R) **5.05** This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Cowboys. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Dijimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.25** ITV News. **12.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **1.40** The Chase. (R) **2.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.55** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.20** Midsomer Murders. (R)

6.20 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.30 ITV News: Weather. **6.45 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulfold hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Keith barters for a new TV. Sonia needs to be unlocked from her bedsheet, Dave referees a football game and Rosie and Marry find out who is the best kisser. Last in the series.

8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the mysterious death of businessman John Shearwood, found floating in the water under the Gateshead Millennium Bridge when he was supposed to be on a golfing trip to Ireland. The man's wife Stella and brother Luke are baffled to discover he was working as an informant for HM Revenue and Customs. Chief Revenue investigator Owen Preece (guest star Robert Glenister) reveals John's business manager Mark Donovan has been running an alcohol scam through their haulage firm and the deceased had agreed to offer information in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Was his cover blown? Owen doesn't think so, and Mark has an alibi – unlike John's wife. Last in the series.

10.00 Perspectives: Freddie Mercury Saved My Life with Alie Boe. The tenor explores the rock star's life and work, discussing his legacy with those who knew him best, including Queen guitarist Brian May, and asking what made Freddie an icon.

11.00 ITV News: Weather. **11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith presents highlights of the semi-finals.

12.15 The Store. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **4.20** ITV Nightrun. **5.05** Rory Bremner's Great British Views. (R)

6.15 British F3 International Series. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Fraser. (R) **8.55** Fraser. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. (R) **9.55** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **10.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R)

8.05 The Adventures of Botticelli Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.35** Lazy Town. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R)

10.35 Power Rangers Megaforce. (R)

11.10 Beware! Cowboy Builders. (R)

12.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **1.10** Film: Cutthroat Island. (1995) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis. **3.35** Film: Around the World in 80 Days. (2004) Comedy adventure, starring Steve Coogan and Jackie Chan. **5.55** Film: Weekends. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

7.35 Film: X2. (2003) Mutant

heroes the X-Men are forced into an uneasy alliance with arch-enemy Magneto to battle a common foe. Following an attempt on the president's life, a sinister military scientist launches a raid to Professor Xavier's school and hatches a plan to rid the world of mutant mutants. Starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Alan Cumming, Halle Berry and Brian Cox. Edited for violence, language and flashing images.

9.00 For the Love of Cars. The 1945 MG-Tc was the little car that broke America, paving the way for the mass export of British sporty two-seaters for the next 30 years. As Ant Anstead restores one to its former glory, Philip Glenister experiences the feeling of racing this classic vehicle around one of the nation's oldest motorsport venues at speeds of almost 70mph. He also meets a 90-year-old former GI who bought his MG-Tc in its twenties and still takes it for regular jaunts around the Hollywood Hills.

9.15 Fargo. When Lester has a close call, Molly makes an unorthodox decision, while Gus weighs up some neighbourly advice and Malvo gets what he wants. Black comedy-drama inspired by the Coen brothers' film, starring Martin Freeman, Billy Bob Thornton, Allison Tolman and Colin Hanks.

10.05 Film: The Wolfman. (2010) A Victorian actor investigating his brother's disappearance is attacked by a strange creature and succumbs to a family curse. Horror, starring Benicio Del Toro and Anthony Hopkins.

12.05 Film: Dorian Gray. (2009) **1.55** Southland. **2.40** Utopia. (R) **3.50** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.45** Four Rooms. (R) **5.40** Supercrippers. (R) **5.50** Deal or No Deal. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R)

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9.00 Film: 21 Jump Street. (2012) Premier. Two youthful-looking cops are sent undercover as high-school students to expose a drug ring. Comedy inspired by the 1980s TV series, with Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Edited for language, violence, language and flashing images.

9.15 Police Interceptors. A monster-truck driver tries to give officers the slip. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Classic Car Rescue. Bernie Finegan and Mario Pacione set out to restore a 1960s VW camper van. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. The work of an animal sanctuary. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. Jess gets a warning from HQ. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. Norris opens a rival milk bar. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. Aaron draws a star with six points. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. A film director visits Silver Hatch. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes. **7.25** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007) **10.00** In the Flesh. **11.00** Family Guy. **11.45** American Dad! **12.00** Mah from Tonga. **1.10** In the Flesh. **2.00** Tropic Takes on Port. **2.55** In the Flesh. **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Young Musician of the Year 2014. **9.30** A Writer's Journey from Here to There – Peter Bowker. **10.00** Eric & Ernie. **11.30** Kings of Rock 'n' Roll. **12.30** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia. **1.30** The Doors: The Story of a Woman. **2.30** The Final Frontier? A Horizon Guide to the Universe

ITV2

12.10 Film: The Mighty Ducks (1992) **2.25** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **4.25** Britain's Got Talent. **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent. **6.45** You've Been Framed! Family Special. **7.30** Film: Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) **10.00** Viral Tap. **10.45** Film: Saw II (2005) **12.50** Viral Tap. **1.20** Viral Tap 2.00 The Vampire Diaries. **2.45** Teleshopping. **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 Inspector Morse. **2.55** Rosemary & Thyme. **4.05** Film: Seabiscuit (2003) **6.50** The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes

8.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night. **9.00** Birds of a Feather. **10.00** Film: Bird on a Wire (1990) **12.20** William and Mary. **1.20** Agatha Christie's Marple. **3.00** Movies Now. **3.10** TV3

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **Chennai Super Kings v Royal Challengers Bangalore and Sunrisers Hyderabad v Kolkata Knight Riders.** **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: Space Cowboys (2000) **11.35** Film: Absolute Power (1997) **2.05** Back on the Job. **Shane Lynch 3.00** Teleshopping. **3.30** The Store. **5.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Youngers. **1.00** Made in Chelsea. **2.00** Revenge. **3.00** How I Met Your Mother. **4.00** The Big Bang Theory. **5.00** The Tomorrow People. **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** Troy. **8.15** Film: 7.15 (Again) (2009) **10.05** The Inbetweeners. **11.15** The Big Bang Theory. **12.05** Ruude Tube. **1.05** Troy. **2.15** Rules of Engagement. **2.55** 2 Broke Girls. **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **2.40** Love Happens (2009) **4.50** Just Wright (2010) **6.45** Letters to Juliet (2010) **9.00** Salt. **10.45** Letters to Juliet (2010) **11.00** The Running Man (1987) **12.50** Leaving Las Vegas (1995) **3.10** Close

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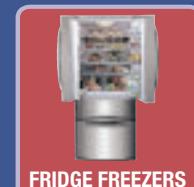
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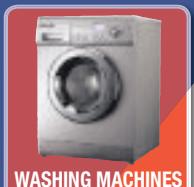
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Film Choices

Monday

Valkyrie, Channel 5, 10.35pm

As the tide of the Second World War turns in favour of the Allies, a group of senior German officers recruit war hero Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg to spearhead an attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler using a briefcase bomb. Starring Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy and Tom Wilkinson. (2008)

Tuesday

Jindabyne, BBC1, 11.40pm

Four men on a fishing trip discover the body of a murdered Aboriginal girl, but decide not to contact the police until after returning home days later. However, when the news breaks in their small town, they are ostracised by the community, and one of their wives becomes obsessed with making amends. Drama, starring Gabriel Byrne and Laura Linney. (2006)

Wednesday

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1, ITV, 7.30pm

The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. (2010)



Valkyrie, Monday, Channel 5, 10.35pm

Thursday

Concrete Canyons, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A wilderness tracker travels to Chicago when he learns his son is a murder suspect and has gone missing. He joins forces with the homicide detective handling the case, intending to use his skills to both find his son and identify the real killer. Mystery, starring Scott Patterson, Polly Shannon and Emilie Ullerup. (2010)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2, ITV, 7.30pm

The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman. (2011)

Friday

Die Another Day, ITV, 10.35pm

James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry, Toby Stephens, Judi Dench and John Cleese. (2002)

Pick of the Week

The final chapter of a remarkable life is told

October 27 2014 marks the centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas, the Swansea-born poet who is now regarded as a giant of 20th-century literature.

We can expect heaps of programmes about him in the coming months (including a performance of his most famous work, *Under Milk Wood*, featuring a cast of famous Welsh faces, including Tom Jones, Siân Phillips and Matthew Rhys), but getting in first is this drama, *Dylan Thomas: A Poet in New York*, BBC2, 9pm about his final days before his death at the age of 39 in 1953.

Tom Hollander plays Thomas, despite admitting that he wasn't particularly a fan before filming began.

"I was aware of him although I didn't know his poetry very well, but I got excited by his personality," says the actor. "I liked the way Andrew Hollander had dramatised this man running out of road, as it were, in his life. He'd done it really well – he's a great writer. That they should have even offered it to me was a wonderful thing."

As well as his writing, Thomas was famous for his voice thanks to the

numerous times he appeared in public to read his own work – and getting his vocal characteristics right was crucial to Hollander's performance.

"Because he's a very well recorded performer, it was very easy to discover what he sounded like as a recording artist. It was harder to find out what he sounded like as a man. I sense that he was putting on a performing voice, a declamatory poetry style, but he can't have been talking like that in real life. Or maybe he was..."

Although the focus of *A Poet in New York* is on the latter part of Thomas's life, there are scenes in which he is a young man, when Tom Hollander a weighty problem – Thomas piled on the pounds during his later years, becoming bloated thanks to his love of the demon drink.

"Eating a lot made me feel ill and the whole thing made me feel dreadful. Without going into the details of it there were unpleasant physical side effects of overeating."

The story begins as Thomas arrives in the Big Apple, en route to

Hollywood where he plans to write an opera about Stravinsky.

The trip is self-funded, but Thomas needs to raise the cash by taking part in a production of *Under Milk Wood* at Manhattan's prestigious Poetry Centre, followed by a tour of talks and readings. But he never completed them.

Friends later remarked how ill he looked during his stay in New York, and he was taken sick on several occasions before finally going gentle into that good night following a four-day coma.

"It's a sympathetic portrayal of self-destruction and it allows you to get inside him," explains Hollander.

"Tales of self-destruction themselves are often not fun to watch, but it's because you see the two things at the same time – you see the poetry and everything that was greatest about him at the same time as you're seeing him destroy himself."

The excellent supporting cast includes Essie Davis, Phoebe Fox, Ewen Bremner, Celi Llewellyn Jones, Jamie Ballard, Demetri Goritsas and Jason May.



Tom Hollander stars in Dylan Thomas: A Poet in New York, Sunday, BBC2, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2014

BBC2, 8pm

In the last couple of years, the younger generation have grown to love Chelsea as the high-powered, hotbed of arguments that famous reality programme shows it to be. However, for many, it's the colourful sprawling garden designs of the Chelsea Flower Show that the area will always be famous for. As always, the BBC is doing everything it can to ensure those not fortunate enough to attend the event can get the full experience from the comfort of their own homes. Monty Don and Joe Swift launch the week of programmes from the horticultural event. Plus, Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch and his actress mother Wanda Ventham share their favourite Chelsea moments.

D-Day's Sunken Secrets

Channel 5, 9pm

An evening of history lessons on Channel 5 begins here, with an expedition to look for military items from the Normandy landings. A group of historians, wreck detectives, scientists and D-Day veterans board two mini-submarines to scour the seabed for objects from the landings of June 1944 – and it's not a task carried out in vain. On the bottom of the ocean, the group comes across a collection of American Sherman tanks that were specially adapted to float, and the wreck of the SS Leopoldville, a trooper hit by a German U-boat with the loss of 800 lives. Meanwhile, veteran Bill Allen, submariner Jim Booth and Tim Beckett, whose father designed a deep-sea harbour used to supply the invasion, give their accounts.

Tuesday

Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic

Channel 5, 8pm

In the latest instalment, the 'aww' factor is turned up a notch as cardiologist Jo carries out complex surgery to fit a pacemaker to Kasey, a German wire-haired pointer. Kasey is 10 years old, and until recently used to take part in field trials, but had to give that up when his heart condition got worse. Meanwhile, over at Chester zoo, Gabby's got her hands full in trying to get a blood sample from a female giraffe six metres tall. Plus, on-call equine surgeon Nell Townsend has to carry out emergency surgery on a foal with life-threatening abdominal pains.

Mr Drew's School for Boys

Channel 4, 9pm

The headteachers of Channel 4's Educating series are making quite an impact – and not only on the students they teach. While we hanker for another series of the Yorkshire counterpart with Mr Mitchell, Mr Drew down in Essex has been tiding us over, with his strict but fair ways of bringing these wayward boys up to scratch. But here's where we see if all his hard work has paid off, as there are just a few days until the boys leave for home. Mr Drew and his team are preparing their students for their return to regular school, but an end-of-term camping trip could go one of two ways, as the parents regain control.

Wednesday

Jack Taylor: The Dramatist

Channel 5, 10pm

Iain Glen returns as the eponymous Irish ex-cop who defends the lost and broken folks of Galway. In this episode, our hero investigates the death of student Sarah Bradley, who dies after falling from the roof of the university. She is dressed in a theatrical costume and a ring of paper wrapped around her hand contains a typed message. The police assume she committed suicide under the influence of heroin, but Professor Gorman does not accept the Garda's theory and thinks his literature student has been murdered.

With help from sidekick, Cody, he tries to get to the bottom of the case. Good support comes from Killian Scott and Nora Jane Noone.



Thursday

Beware! Cowboy Builders

Channel 5, 8pm

Viewers with long memories may recall a particularly devastating edition of *Cowboy Builders* from 2009, when the show came to the aid of Stuart and Michelle Trigg in Thornbury, Gloucestershire. The couple's problems began when they enlisted some 'professional' help to build an extension for their home, only to be

left with an unfinished, unsafe and thoroughly botched job. In this programme, the last in the current series, Dominic Littlewood and Gabrielle Blackman head back to the West Country to see how the poor, put-upon Trigg family are getting on.

From There to Here

BBC1, 9pm

Philip Glenister stars in this drama about a man whose life changes for ever after he is caught up in the 1996 IRA bomb blast that rocked Manchester. Escaping serious injury, Daniel comes to the rescue of a single mother and helps her home, realising she lives in the working-class neighbourhood where he grew up, before he was adopted and went on to live a more charmed life. Now he has it all – wife, kids, his own business – but he is feeling restless after his near-death experience. Saskia Reeves, Steven Mackintosh, Liz White and Bernard Hill co-star.

Friday

Gogglebox

Channel 4, 9pm

The Royle Family's Caroline Aherne narrates a final visit to the living rooms of some of Britain's most opinionated TV fanatics as the third series of *Gogglebox* draws to a close. Posh tipplers Steph and Dom, hairdressers Christopher and Stephen, the lovable Leon and June and other favourites offer sharp, insightful, passionate and sometimes emotional critiques of the week's television from the comfort of their own sofas, fiercely discussing everything from talent contests to topical documentaries. Last in the series.

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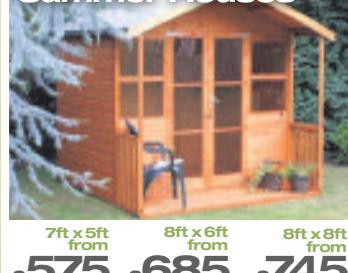
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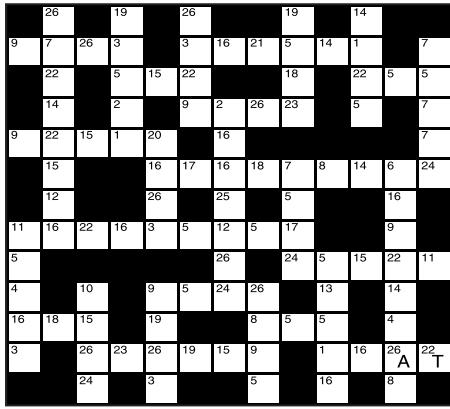
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	I	D	H	B	J	F	G	Z	M	L	A	X	S	13
14	E	P	Q	Y	K	T	N	C	R	O	U	W	V	15

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

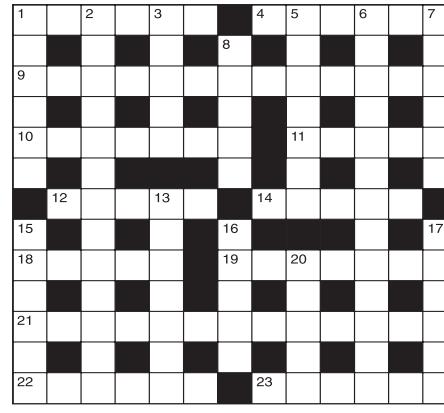
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Back up the others who couldn't come cleaner (6)
4. They are turned on, of course, when working (6)
9. Whitehead arranged composition by wealthy composer (7,6)
10. Being unsteady, Eric takes in deserts (7)
11. It may be put in a quiver, of course (5)
12. Lower a foundation (5)
14. Dusty den? (5)
18. Shout for joy at the sight of food (5)
19. Base tackle for taking a rise (3,4)
21. Fail to understand and so annihilate? (4,7,2)
22. He may well hope for return out of play (6)
23. Guard at the southern gate (6)

Down

1. Beer for the janitor (6)
2. The biggest smash-hit of all? (6-7)
3. Begin to show shock (5)
5. Very hard worker is under the first man (7)
6. Sounds as if a number are delayed by a collection of stones (13)
7. They have a driver to drive them home (6)
8. Cited an official pronouncement (5)
13. Alien telephoned in the outset (7)
15. The rascals put up their tent in a ship! (6)
16. The clergy - many in a small church (5)
17. Cunning but skilled? (6)
20. Don't claim a view (5)
22. 23.



Quick Clues:

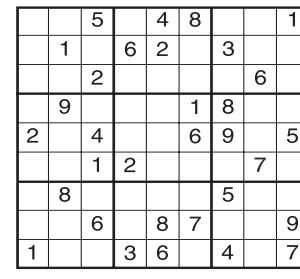
Across

1. Scales (6)
4. Adhesive (6)
9. Refractoriness (13)
10. Merciful (7)
11. Correct (5)
12. Started (5)
14. Ladder (5)
18. Grown-up (5)
19. Blow up (7)
21. Thought (13)
22. Constant (6)
23. Rested (6)

Down

1. Coagulate (6)
2. Unimportance (13)
3. Protuberance (5)
5. Plague (7)
6. Pondering (13)
7. Cedes (6)
8. Merriment (5)
13. Not tested (7)
15. Cuts open (6)
16. Collier (5)
17. Wrote (6)
20. Signal light (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	3	9	1	8	2	7	6
2	8	1	7	5	6	3	9	4
9	6	7	3	4	2	8	1	5
7	5	8	4	6	1	9	2	3
4	1	6	2	3	9	5	8	7
3	9	2	5	8	7	4	6	1
8	2	5	1	7	4	6	3	9
1	3	9	6	2	5	7	4	8
6	7	4	8	9	3	1	5	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fell through; 9 Thistle; 11 Arena; 11 Gusto; 12 Elector; 13 Feline; 15 Larve; 18 Inspect; 20 Roost; 22 Hoist; 23 Theatre; 24 Escape route. Down: 2 Emits; 3 Let-down; 4 Heel; 5 Gate; 6 Garter; 7 Stage flight; 8 Fall; 9 Lifeline; 14 Lassie; 16 Toledo; 18 Stale; 19 Extra; 21 Octet. QUICK - Across: 1 Environment; 9 Element; 10 Rogue; 11 Tart; 12 Congeal; 13 Burial; 15 Critic; 18 Augment; 20 Charm; 22 Commas; 23 Britain; 24 Antecedents. Down: 2 Noise; 3 Inertia; 4 Optics; 5 Moron; 6 Neglect; 7 Resemblance; 8 Replacement; 14 Regimen; 16 Receive; 17 Stable; 19 Evade; 21 Adapt.



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Botswana Safari and Cape Town

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At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants - it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschhoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

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A SPACIOUS detached family home in Long Lane, Walsall, needs to be viewed to fully appreciate it.

It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £340,000. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has a reception hall, a re-fitted breakfast kitchen with electric oven, gas hob, extractor hood, fridge, freezer, a dining room opening into a lounge, three bedrooms, a re-fitted family bathroom, annexe with a large living area and a re-fitted tiled ground floor bathroom, two first floor bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms, and gardens. Contact 01922 621411 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



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HALESOWEN, Lusbridge close £1,000 pcm - Fees An unfurnished detached house, in a very quiet cul-de-sac location. Briefly featuring 4 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, house bathroom with shower, large lounge, large fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, garage and driveway parking. EPC: E



QUINTON, Ridgacre Lane £750 pcm - Fees Beautifully redecorated 3 bed detached house, convenient for the number 9 bus into Birmingham. This property will not last long and features 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, office room, large kitchen diner with double glazing, rear garden, garage and driveway for 1 car, large rear and side garden. EPC: E



BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way £750 pcm - Fees A furnished or unfurnished detached house close to Brierley Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: G



HALESOWEN, Newton Court £750 pcm - Fees A recently converted 3 bedroom 1st floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Tay Grove £725 pcm - Fees Beautifully presented in the sought after location of Harts Green. This freshly decorated semi-detached house features a large through lounge, modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, large rear garden, driveway parking for 2 cars and a garage. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £625 pcm - Fees Luxury living in Halesowen. A superb 1st floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Clement Road £595 pcm - Fees Completely renovated larger than average three bedroom mid terrace property in a most convenient location close to Blackheath, bus links and amenities. Features 3 reception rooms, large fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 3 bedrooms, private rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



MERRY HILL, Madison Avenue £595 pcm - Fees Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern terrace house, with walking distance of the town centre, bus links, local amenities, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master en-suite shower room, allocated parking space. No Garden. A parking permit is required. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cherry Orchard Avenue £575 pcm - Fees Situated in a well sought after location of Halesowen. This well presented 2 bedroom semi-detached house features 1 double, 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen, dining room, large size lounge, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking, garage to rear, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £550 pcm - Fees A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Mapletree Lane £550 pcm - Fees A stunning end of terrace in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This massive house has had a complete refurbishment and features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. A property not to be missed!. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Clifton Road £550 pcm - Fees A fantastic 2 bedroom modern mid terrace property. Set within a cul-de-sac location comprising: welcoming hall, fitted kitchen with built in oven & hob and integral fridge freezer, delightful lounge, 2 good size bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom and pleasant good size rear garden, large off road parking area for 2 cars, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Green Lane £550 pcm - Fees An unfurnished end of terrace property close to all amenities featuring 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, new upstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing throughout, gas central heating, off-road secure parking space at rear of property. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Green Lane £525 pcm - Fees Traditional terraced house close to Blackheath and not far from the train station. This great house features 3 good size bedrooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs modern bathroom with shower, 2 breakfast reception rooms. Benefits include large garden. On road parking. Beautifully presented. Must be viewed. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Redd Hill Road £500 pcm - Fees Modern 2 bedroom ground floor flat within walking distance to shops and transport links. This property features a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms both with fitted wardrobes, bathroom with shower, electric storage heaters, double glazing, allocated parking. Available now. EPC: C



STOURBRIDGE, Collis Street £495 pcm - Fees A stunning end of terrace which has had a full refurbishment. With great bus links to Stourbridge. This massive house features 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 2 good size double bedrooms, downstairs family bathroom with 'P' shaped bath and shower, double glazing, gas central heating. A property not to be missed!. EPC: TBC



QUARRY BANK, Charles Road £495 pcm - Fees Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close by to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This home features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, large fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £495 pcm - Fees Situated in this popular residential area overlooking the canal and with its own balcony. This top floor apartment features a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms both with balcony access, access to balcony from the lounge and master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Stour Court £475 pcm - Fees Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept 1st floor apartment situated in a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in cooker and hob, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £450 pcm - Fees A 2 double bedroom semi-detached house on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted wardrobes in the master bedroom, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive £450 pcm - Fees This unfurnished end terraced property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Brierley Hill. The house features 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice size lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C

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To appreciate this property a viewing is essential, this well presented detached three bedroom home with garage.

View Drive, Dudley



EPC D



Offers Over £250,000

Detached four bedroom property with lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/diner, study, utility, en-suite and family bathroom.

Walton Close, Rowley Regis



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£145,000

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EPC G

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Upper Ashley Street, Halesowen



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EPC D

£120,000

Traditional terraced house with drive and garage. The remainder of the accommodation is lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms and rear

Bryan Budd Close, Rowley Regis



Awaiting EPC

£135,000

Modern semi detached property comprises lounge, kitchen/dining room, three bedrooms, rear garden and parking space. Halesowen

Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath



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EPC E

£95,000

A traditional end terraced property for sale. The property is situated in a location convenient for local amenities. Halesowen

Green Lane, Halesowen



EPC D

£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



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AVAILABLE

EPC D

£60,000

First floor flat offering lounge, kitchen breakfast room, bedroom, bathroom, communal gardens and allocated parking. Halesowen

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CASTLE ROAD WEST

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating E
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- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£180,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



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NEW

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two reception Rooms Breakfast Kitchen Ground Floor W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Front and Rear Gardens
- Property Benefits From Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing

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UPPER MEADOW ROAD

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

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OLDBURY

NO CHAIN

LINKS ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Stairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Large Plot To Side Of Property No Upward Chain

£140,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



WOODGATE

NEW

WOOD LANE

- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Area Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear

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QUINTON

REDUCED

SIMMONS DRIVE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

£120,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN

WORCESTER ROAD

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility/Cloakroom
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear

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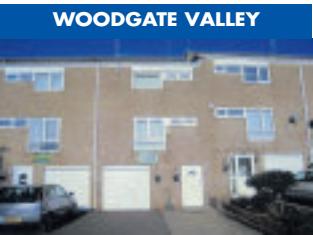
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NO CHAIN

ROOD END ROAD

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms Upstairs W/c
- Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Some Original Features Internal Viewing Recommended

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WOODGATE VALLEY

NO CHAIN

LITTLE HILL WAY

- Three Storey Mid Townhouse EPC Rating C
- Spacious Lounge Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Wet Room W/c
- Integral Garage Drive Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended

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NO CHAIN

SALOP ROAD

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens No Upward Chain

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OLDBURY

NO CHAIN

FARM ROAD

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Property Benefits From Double Glazing And A Gas Central Heating System
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom Two Bedrooms
- Garden To The Rear Of The Property
- Internal Viewing Recommended

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NEW

WATERSIDE COURT

- Top Floor Apartment EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazed
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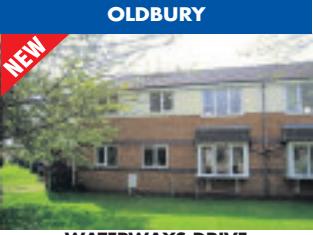
QUINTON

NO CHAIN

DAVENTRY GROVE

- Spacious 2nd Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
- Through Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Community Gardens
- Benefits From No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



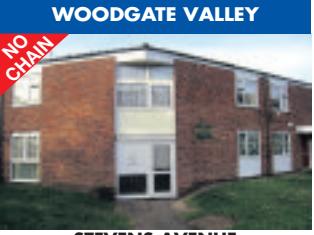
OLDBURY

NEW

WATERWAYS DRIVE

- Spacious Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Property Has A Private Rear Garden and Allocated Parking
- Internal Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£80,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



WOODGATE VALLEY

NO CHAIN

STEVENS AVENUE

- Immaculate First Floor Flat EPC Rating E
- Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
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- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing No Upward Chain

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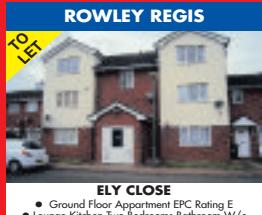


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ARLA





Marking 30th anniversary of popular SEAT Ibiza

By Sharon Walters

This week it is 30 years since the very first Ibiza rolled off the production line in SEAT's Zona Franca factory.

Since that day, the Ibiza has remained SEAT's most iconic and popular car, with sales approaching five million across three decades and four generations.

The car was a game-changer for SEAT, the first designed and developed completely by the Spanish company from start to finish – with a little help from some friends. Namely, collaborations with Giorgetto Giugiaro's Italdesign design company, coachbuilder Karmann, and Porsche helped make the Ibiza a truly cutting-edge small car, and the foundation of 30 years of ongoing success.

The very embodiment of the Spain of the '80s, the first SEAT Ibiza was ambitious, dynamic and ground-breaking. Its name, taken from the Mediterranean island, reinforced the exotic image given to it by virtue of its Spanish roots.

The backdrop chosen for the world première of the SEAT Ibiza was the prestigious Paris Motor Show in 1984, and from then on the car has gone from strength to strength, achieving success both in its domestic market and abroad, with almost seven of every ten produced exported; 69 per cent of 5,000,000 total Ibiza production has been exported to more than 75 countries worldwide.

The most important markets for the Ibiza during the early years were Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal and Mexico, in addition to Spain.

SEAT will celebrate this resounding and continued success with the launch of a 30th anniversary model, set to go on sale in June.

SEAT ended the '80s with production and sales records, and became a member of the Volkswagen Group. Until 1993 the brand's activity had been concentrated in the Barcelona Zona Franca, but its membership of a new group, the success of its new models, and the need to increase production meant that a new industrial production complex was required. SEAT would be provided with a new modern factory next to its technical centre in Martorell, opened in 1991.

The second-generation Ibiza would be the first vehicle built at SEAT's new Martorell production facility. More than that, the establishment of the new factory would give rise to the creation of a suppliers' industrial estate, which at that time comprised 20 companies.

Today Martorell remains one of the most modern and flexible factories in Europe, its international standing attested to when SEAT received the 'Automotive Lean Production' award. Almost 700 Ibiza vehicles are built every day on Martorell's Line 1, employing around 1,600 people directly; all told, SEAT generates direct and indirect employment for approximately 70,000 families.

Distinguished

The Ibiza is 100 per cent SEAT, since it was the first vehicle designed and developed in its entirety by the company. Design has always formed part of the Spanish brand's DNA, and in the case of the Ibiza the four generations have borne the hallmark of distinguished names in the field of automotive design.

For the first generation of the Ibiza (1984-1993), SEAT collaborated with Italdesign, the company of world famous Italian designer Giorgetto Giugiaro, with Karmann for the development of the bodywork, and Porsche for the technology of the 'System Porsche' engines.

There was a clear aesthetic leap in the second generation (1993-2002), which again bore the hallmark of Giugiaro. The lines were rounded and aerodynamic, and the car given a level of equipment and mechanical sophistication that were in those days normally only found in cars in the segments above.

Italian designer Walter de'Silva, the current head of design at the Volkswagen Group, was responsible for the outline of the third-generation Ibiza (2002-2008), which took another step forward in manufacture quality, engine range and dynamic performance. Walter de'Silva introduced more attractive aesthetics, while the car's dynamic prowess took another leap forward thanks to the 'Agile Chassis' concept developed by SEAT's technical centre in Martorell.

The current generation of the Ibiza (2008 onwards) is the work of Luc Donckerwolke, head of design at SEAT in 2008 and formerly of Lamborghini. The concept of 'Arrow Design' was introduced with the 2008 Ibiza, resulting in a car distinctively sportier than its predecessors. The first SEAT Ibiza with a clear sports calling was the SXI with a 100 PS engine, the forerunner of the current Cupra and FR versions. In 1996, the company presented the Cupra version, with a 2.0-litre 150 PS engine, offering outstanding performance and a distinctly sporty image.

The Ibiza Kit Car was a much-awaited launch, with which SEAT achieved a brilliant triumph in the FIA 2.0-litre World Rally Championships – a success that was repeated in 1997 and 1998.

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Bridgestone is BMW choice

For the sixth year running, Bridgestone – the number one tyre and rubber manufacturer in the world – has been selected as the exclusive tyre supplier to the BMW Driving Experience.

Comprising a range of specialised training programmes which enhance driving skills, safety and performance, the 2014 edition promises both big and small things.

In addition to the already impressive line-up of BMW vehicles shod with Bridgestone tyres, participants in this year's edition of the BMW Driving Experience will also have the opportunity to get behind the wheel of a BMW M4,

the powerful new high-performance coupé, and a BMW i3, the revolutionary new compact all-electric car.

As exclusive Original Equipment supplier to the i3, Bridgestone was the obvious choice.

Perfectly adapted to the training programmes which put drivers to the test in a variety of conditions, Bridgestone's tyres let them explore and extend their limits safely and with total confidence.

Specialist

Previous editions of the BMW Driving Experience have offered specialist training to more than 50,000 motorists throughout Europe.

The diverse programme includes courses in safety, snow and ice driving, racing techniques and profession-

al driving. BMW M Experience events, tours and customised driving experiences are also offered.

The decision to extend Bridgestone's exclusive partnership with the BMW Driving Experience is testament to the strong collaboration between the two brands.

The most recent product of this fruitful partnership is the Bridgestone Ecopia EP500 – developed exclusively for the BMW i3 electric car.

"BMW and Bridgestone share a common vision on safety and sustainable motoring," says Jake Rønsholt, director corporate and brand communications.

"Our continued involvement with the BMW Driving Experience pushes this partnership to a new level."



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More Skodas join scheme

Every model from Skoda's GreenLine fleet of environmentally-advanced cars is now available on the Motability scheme.

Over 20 different variants offer customers high levels of safety, practicality and a generous specification.

New to the Motability scheme, the recently-launched Octavia GreenLine III 1.6 TDI 110 hatch and estate allow motorists to benefit from one of the lowest emissions in the class at 85g/km CO2 (VED Band A), a combined cycle fuel economy to match at 88.3mpg as well as a substantial load capacity of up to 1,740 litres.

There is ample space for the storage of luggage and mobility equipment, whilst Skoda's clever storage

solutions further enhance the practicality of the Octavia.

Carrying zero advance payment and zero road tax, the Fabia hatch and estate line-up has also been extended on the programme to include the GreenLine II 1.2 TDI model in both guises.

They join the five-door Rapid Spaceback hatch which brings nearly 1,400 litres of space whilst delivering exceptionally low running costs thanks to emissions of just 99g/km and an impressive fuel consumption of 74.3mpg.

The facelifted Yeti and Yeti Outdoor 1.6 TDI GreenLine II crossover models are ideal for those requiring an elevated driving position and access to more rugged environments.

Furthermore, to help customers choose the right vehicle according to their individual needs, Skoda UK has

launched its new-look Motability website – www.skoda.co.uk/motability.

The upgraded portal supplies dedicated offers and product information for each model available on the scheme, in addition to a downloadable Motability price guide.

Andy Thomas, sales operations – rental and motability manager at Skoda UK, said: "The addition of the entire GreenLine model range further reinforces our continued strategy of building brand presence on the scheme."

To qualify, individuals must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or Armed Forces Independence Payment, which will be taken in lieu of the four-weekly allowance.

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Top award for Merc S-Class

The Mercedes S-Class has been voted 'Best Executive Car' in the 2014 Diesel Car, Car of the Year Awards.

In announcing the award, Ian Robertson, editor and publisher of Diesel Car magazine, said: "It's the kind of car you'll want to drive yourself, thanks to alert steering, great composure through the bends, enormous grip and an impressively supple ride."

Among the innovations on the new S-Class is the option of Magic Body

Control – making it capable of detecting bumps in the road ahead and adjusting the suspension accordingly.

The S-Class is available with a choice of four-, six-, eight- or 12-cylinder engines, two hybrids and two wheelbases.

The awarded S 350 BlueTEC generates 258hp, returning 51.4mpg with emissions of 146g/km CO₂. It sits alongside the S 300 BlueTEC Hybrid returning 61.4mpg with emissions of 120g/km CO₂, generating 204hp, with additional 27kW electric engine.

The S-Class, which remains the UK's most popular luxury car based on registration figures issued by the SMMT, focuses on three engineering priorities: 'Intelligent drive' – encompassing a host of new comfort and safety systems, 'efficient technology' – setting a new benchmark with combined fuel consumption of up to 61.4mpg and a CO₂ figure of 0.23, and 'essence of luxury' – where the highest perceived quality underpins the high standards throughout this flagship model.

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#Model shown is an Alfa Mito 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp Sportiva at £15,550 OTR[†] excluding Alfa Red Special Paint at £450 and an Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression at £18,750 OTR[†] including Luna Pearl Metallic Paint at £510. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Mito and Giulietta range: Urban 34.0 - 64.2 mpg (8.3 - 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 53.3 - 97.4 mpg (5.3 - 2.9 l/100km); Combined 44.1 - 80.7 mpg (6.4 - 3.5 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 148 - 90 g/km.

[†]Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

[^]0% APR finance Hire Purchase available over a 2 year term with a minimum deposit of 45% on Alfa Mito Models and over a 3 year term with a minimum deposit of 40% on Alfa Giulietta Models. Offer applies to models registered between 1st April 2014 and 30th June 2014. Retail sales only. Terms and conditions apply. Offer correct at time of printing. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW.

[‡]On the road price includes 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing. Vehicles must be registered before 30th June 2014.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.*

Finance available on selected models only. Subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-60 month term. **Vauxhall Deposit Contributions vary and exclude Mokka, Cascada and other selected models. We can introduce you to a finance provider, commission may be received. †Fuel offer not available on Zafira (Classic) models, other terms, conditions and exclusions apply. £500 free fuel will be via pre-paid debit card. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall retailer for details. Participating Retailers only. Offers will apply to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24. All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and Conditions apply. Offers available on new vehicle orders from 16-19 May 2014, which are registered by 30 June 2014. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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2000, twin axle tourer, CH, AC,
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duty awning, strong enough
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All accessories. Awning, screens,
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2005, 2 berth, motor mover, 2
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Sited it Stourport-on-Severn,
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CARAVAN

DG, CH, 2003, decking, site
fees paid till 2014, sited
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£12,000.
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WILLERBY RIO 3
June 2011, 6-berth.

35ft x 12ft static caravan.
Double glazed throughout CH.
Two large bedrooms, one with
ensuite, second twin single
beds. Wardrobes and side
tables in both bedrooms. Plenty
of storage.

Bathroom with shower, basin,
towel, kitchen with gas cooker,
fridge freezer. Third double
folding bed in lounge area.

Large decking. Will help with
cost of removing caravan from
site.
£16,000 ono.

01902 896036. 07432 399119.

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CAMPER

Fiesta 4 berth, 2007, awning,
fridge, hob and grill, sink, electric
hookup, battery. Garage stored.
Excellent condition.
£3,300.00.
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£400.

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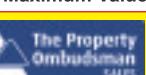
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Double glazed throughout, CH.
Two bedrooms, one with ensuite, second twin single beds. Wall panels and side tables in both bedrooms. Plenty of storage.

Bathroom with shower, basin, toilet, kitchen with gas cooker, fridge freezer. Third double folding bed in lounge area.
Large decking. Will help with cost of removing caravan from site.

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Strong starts pay off for the firsts

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1

The George 222

Kings Heath Park 180

THE first team took on old adversaries Kings Heath Park. The George got off to a good start building up a 31-shot lead in the first four after wins by Paul Greene (21-7), Eric Winstone and Jamie Dunn (both 21-12).

Kings Heath fought back in the middle four, Shane Day (21-16) being the only winner. The George back four sealed the match with Phil Clinton (21-8), Mark Street (21-9), Marc Wilson (21-14) & Steve Darling (21-18) all winning.

South Staffs Premier Division

Chadsmoor 244

The George 150

The second team are still finding it hard to pick up points away from home. Chris Lambert and Keith Walton (both 21-17) were the only winners.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2

Acoccks Green 224

The George 218

The third team lost a close match at Acoccks Green. Keith Newman (21-11) and Bill Chiswell (21-14) won in the 1st four and The George trailed by five shots. After the middle four The George had slipped 10 shots behind.

Rampant rivals are tough task

Nuneaton Junior League Round 2

Halesowen swimmers had another home draw for the second round of the junior league.

Faced with another tough draw it was an uphill battle from the off with Boldmere rampant in nearly every event. At the halfway mark the team had settled into fourth spot and held on to that place.

As ever wins were very hard to come by with Lily Merrell in the breaststroke and Jacob Bailey and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins in the backstroke grabbing first places.

The age nine boys team including Noah Hanke, Adam Ryan and Jamie Worton won the medley relay.

Big week as memorial run hits 28th year

Running

IT was the busiest week of the year for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as they hosted their annual DK10k road race in memory of the late Dick Blackburn.

Now in its 28th year, the race has been a hit since the early 1980s with top local club athletes boasting a course record of under 30 minutes for the 6.2 mile distance.

Starting on the Mile Flat and going out towards Enville before turning along Mill Lane and Greensforge Lane before finishing back at DK Rugby Club the race always attracts a huge entry. This year was no different as more than 700 toed the line mak-

ing this one of the biggest mid-week races in the Midlands.

Although 39 DK athletes pulled on the blue hoop vests to compete it was the club members behind the scenes who should take the greatest credit.

The club committee had worked tirelessly leading up to the race. With a lot of vocal support on the course, particularly at the point where the route passed The Navigation, it was like a home game for any DK

athletes. First back for the club were Ben Foster who placed fifth overall in a new personal best of 34.58 and Lorna Hulme who clocked 43.30.

The men's race was won by Martin Williams of Tipton Harriers in 33.22 from Halesowen ACC's Richard White in 33.49 and Stuart Hawkes of Amazing Feet in 34.42. In the women's race Amy Sheppard of Cobra took first place in 41.17 from Tipton's Penelope Barber in 42.00 and Hannah Ager in 42.26.

There was more success for DK's Ben Foster on Sunday in the ultra-competitive

Market Drayton 10k placing 10th in 34.47 shaving another few seconds of his best time for the distance. Rob Sannwald was 59th in 38.32, Dave Norman finished in 39.13 for 76th place, Graham Wildgoose was 135th in 41.28 from Gary Bonner in 36.37 in 41.34 and Mark Homer in 139th in 41.38. Dave Hickman finished in 48.08 in 440th place from first DK lady home, Sarah Cox in 624th in 51.07. Alison Whitehouse was 751st in 52.20, Tracey Nicholls in 1.158th in 59.28, John Gould in 1.03.41 in 1.392nd and Phil Morris in 1.04.26 placing 1,423rd of the near 1800 runners taking part.

Albion's final misery reflects their season

Albion 1 Stoke 2

ALBION'S 38th fixture of a troubled season spoke for the previous 37 – deeply flawed, briefly promising, ultimately disappointing.

This has been the first campaign since the club's last Premier League relegation in 2009 in which Albion have gone backwards and the last rites passed their own comment on such a troubled 10 months or so.

There was to be no uplifting valediction, no rousing statement of support for Pepe Mel and his troubled tenure.

Stoke City took care of that as they so often seem to do. With so many troubling side-issues enveloping the club what Albion needed more than anything was a rousing send off from the team. What they got was a reminder of their deficiencies this season.

More often than not since the Spaniard took over, Albion have been unable to produce more than half a performance, a frustration which followed them to the very last. For the opening half-hour especially, there were yet again unable to rouse themselves from the kind of lethargy that marked the previous performance at Sunderland.

An own goal by Gareth McAuley – inadvertently converting a cross from Marko Arnautovic after Stoke broke out to claim the winner via one of their own replacements. Had taken over from Odemwingie and smacked home a left-foot drive from 20 yards which beat Foster.

Football

from Odemwingie to their own players in frustration. Rightly so – a packed house was expecting more than a limp repeat of their Stadium of Light offering. But, curiously, the discredited Nigerian came to their rescue one final time, albeit briefly. A clattering with McAuley as the two men chased down possession on the touchline spilled some much-needed vim and vigour into Albion's performance and back in to the galleries; united by their mutual adversary, the team finally put some meaning into their football.

Craig Dawson, the latest to try to fill Albion's vexing difficulties at full-back, had a testing afternoon against the gifted Arnautovic and it was enjoyable for him to gallop forward again and set up the same Albion colleague for a header which stretched Thomas Sorensen.

But just as The Hawthorns prepared for one final assault, Stoke broke out to claim the winner via one of their own replacements. Had taken over from Odemwingie and smacked home a left-foot drive from 20 yards which beat Foster.

Wolves Women cling on to Premier spot



Anna Perks of Wolves Women will be staying in the Premier League after her side's win helped them avoid relegation

Wolves Women 2 Newcastle United Ladies 1

WOLVES Women made it three wins out of four to maintain their Premier League status with a 2-1 win against Newcastle in a game played at Hednesford's Keys Park ground.

With both sides fighting relegation and looking for the goals that would secure their place in next season's Premier League.

Wolves made the breakthrough

from a corner with Anna Perks reacting well to steer her shot through a host of bodies and into the Newcastle net.

Bekky Hall came close with an effort from range, but Wolves were unable to add to their tally before half time.

The second half saw the frantic pace continue. Selmes saw her effort go over the bar when through on goal, before Newcastle were unable

to convert from three yards out, as Natalie Henderson fired over.

Newcastle's pressure earned them an equaliser as Jess Havelock capitalised on some poor defending to fire in from close range on 66 minutes.

Although her cross was put behind, Wolves capitalised from the corner, as Jade Hewitt made herself the hero by forcing the ball over the line to give Wolves the win. The full time whistle was met by delight.

Hopes for Perry to get back in saddle

MAX CLEGG is hoping to see Cradley colleague Tom Perry back in action soon, writes Nigel Pearson.

Clegg has spent a lot of time with Perry so far this season as both are also racing for Leicester.

But Perry is facing a month out of the saddle with a broken collarbone sustained when making a guest appearance for Ipswich last week.

Clegg said: "I'm enjoying riding with Tom – he's a fast rider who has a lot of experience on the track.

"He's easy to ride with really and we can hopefully build up a good partnership as the season goes on.

"It's a shame to see him get injured but hopefully he can recover quickly so we can start riding together and getting heat advantages again for Cradley and Leicester." Clegg is one of only three riders left in the Heathens side which won everything available to them in the National League last season.

He admits it's a lot to ask to match the achievements of 2013.

Cradley go to Milden-hall on Sunday for their Knockout Cup away leg – and the next home meeting is on Tuesday, May 27, against Kent.

New club is on the right track

A NEW running club for all ages and abilities has been launched at a sports stadium in Smethwick.

Hadley Stadium is hosting the club in with Sport England.

The club has been launched as part of Sport England's Black Country in Motion project, and will take place every Saturday from 10am to 11am, led by a qualified UK Athletics running coach.

Sessions will be based on the athletics track and children are welcome to attend with participating adults. The cost per session is £2 for 16-year-olds or over, £1 for 12 to 16-year-olds, and free for under 12s.

For more information, contact 0300 012 0121.

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Crammed schedule catches up on Robins

DUDLEY TOWN'S hectic end-of-season programme took its toll as they slumped to a 4-0 home defeat by Wednesfield in their final West Midlands League Premier Division match of the season.

The Robins have been cramming in three games a week for the past few weeks as they played catch up on their fixture list.

It has produced some unfortunate results, including a 9-2 hammering as Lye Town won the league title, and a 5-1 home reverse to Ellesmere Rangers.

However, Town have done enough to finish the season in the top 10.

Wednesfield manager Lee Price was able to field a full strength side at The Dell and it paid off by ending a miserable run of four successive league defeats.

Ricky Nicholls gave the visitors the perfect start, scoring in the fourth minute when he finished off a good build-up.

Wednesfield made it 2-0 when Josh Jones hit a curling shot into the far corner of the net.

Nicholls claimed his second goal and Wednesfield's third in the 66th minute.

Wednesfield wrapped up the proceedings in the 86th minute with a powerful Stevie Douglass 30-yard shot to make it 4-0.

Back to best, says Benteke

CHRISTIAN BENTEKE is looking for a swift return to Villa and vowed he will be back to his best.

The striker has handed the claret and blues a major boost during a chaotic and uncertain time for the club and boss Paul Lambert.

Owner Randy Lerner put the club up for sale on Monday and rumours persist over Lambert's future, with the pair set to meet in America this week. But Benteke has lifted the mood despite being ruled out for at least six months with an Achilles injury in April.

"I'm convinced I will be back faster than expected. People have said it will take me six months but I will be back faster," he said.

Belgium announced their World Cup squad this week with Benteke forced to miss out. Marc Wilmots' side face Algeria, Russia and South Korea in Brazil.

Final misery

Albion's last game reflects poor season

Page 47

Premier spot

Victory helps women avoid the drop

Page 39



email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Support growing for Downing to take on role

SUPPORT is growing for Keith Downing to become a genuine contender for the vacant Albion job.

Behind the scenes at The Hawthorns, there is a clamour for Downing to succeed Pepe Mel and it is believed the long-serving coach would consider discussing the role with the hierarchy.

Albion have confirmed Terry Burton as their new technical director with Richard Garlick moved aside into an administrative role. And one of Burton's first tasks will be to sound out Downing about his intentions.

He originally ruled himself out of the

Football

running for the permanent role during his month-long stint as caretaker boss in December and January.

But it is understood the presence of director of technical performance and scouting Dave McDonough was among the main stumbling blocks. McDonough has since departed.

The former Wolves midfielder has the backing of Albion's senior players but support extends beyond the squad, with other members of the coaching staff and

recruitment department believing the Oldbury-born 48-year-old is ready for the top job. He has recently completed his UEFA Pro Licence and received plaudits from players for his role in keeping the Baggies in the Premier League this season.

Mel's failure to win over the squad meant Downing took charge of most training sessions from Monday-Friday as well as delivering half-time team talks.

Burton, whose appointment was confirmed this week, will play a key role in the future. The former Wimbledon manager and Arsenal youth chief will be involved

in drawing up a shortlist and interviewing potential candidates despite not starting officially until June 1.

Garlick, who spent just over a year as sporting and technical director after succeeding Dan Ashworth, will become director of football administration.

Chairman Jeremy Peace said: "Richard remains a key member of the board. However, with the responsibilities of the position becoming increasingly wide-ranging, we felt it would be wise to split the role.

"The appointment of Terry can only strengthen the club."

Teams all set to blitz opposition

THE A and B team skaters from the Birmingham Blitz Dames roller derby team are set to battle in a double header at home next month.

Naomi Harris from Halesowen will be against Vaginé Regime. This will be a high energy and exciting event at Futsal Centre, Birmingham on Saturday (24).

Roller derby is a fast, full-contact sport, with two teams of five skaters battling against each other. One skater in each team is the jammer and has a star on her helmet.

She gets points for each member of the opposition she passes.

The rest of their team are blockers who help their jammer by shoving the other team and clearing a path.

Harris said: "There are so many things I love about this game: the teamwork, the contact, the speed, the after parties. I think the fact that it's a sport that was started by women and that's run by the players makes it a great sport to take part in."

The Dames are successful with six international players. They will be in Dallas this year to compete in the roller derby world cup.

Jackett has to share honours

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett was named joint League One manager of the year with Leyton Orient's Russell Slade.

Head coach Jackett led Wolves to a sensational season in the third tier but, surprisingly.

Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers was crowned LMA Manager of the Year.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, May 15

BAGGIES IN HUNT FOR A NEW BOSS

Leeds boss Brian McDermott has emerged as a surprise contender to replace Pepe Mel at Albion as Terry Burton prepared to lead the search for the new Baggies head coach.

SACKED Manchester United manager David Moyes topped a digital poll to find out who fans want to take over at The Hawthorns.

Football

being appointed in January and left yesterday by mutual consent.

Garlick said: "Both Pepe and the club set out with the best intentions of making the appointment work. But it was in the best interests of both parties for there to be an amicable parting."

Mel's daughter Iris Mel Montero responded to many affectionate messages from fans by tweeting: "Thank you very much for your affection. We love you too."

Albion's FA Cup-winning captain Graham Williams identified his Baggies management dream team in the wake of Pepe Mel's exit.

Williams wants to see Walsall boss Dean Smith join forces with Former Albion coach Terry Burton to stabilise the club.

Burton looks set to return to the club he trained under Roy Hodgson from December 2011 to March 2012 in an advisory capacity and was at the training ground on Monday for talks.

"I hope Terry Burton comes in because he's a good guy who knows his football and has been successful wherever he's been," said Williams,

Electric night of boxing promised at venue



From left, Jamie Geller, Ryan Corrigan, Ryan Aston, Ricky Summers, Paul Holt and Luke Paddock

DUDLEY'S boxing fans have been promised an "electric atmosphere" when paid pugilism returns to The Venue on Saturday June 7.

It's a homecoming for five of the seven fighters on one half of the ring, who all train just down the road at Priory Park Boxing Club.

Ryan Aston tops the bill as he performs as a professional on his own turf for the first time, dropping down to light middleweight to tackle Terry

Carruthers, Coseley's Ryan Corrigan, Bloxwich's Luke Paddock, Tipton's Ricky Summers and debutant Jamie Geller also appear, along with Birmingham duo Paul Holt and John Hutchinson.

Promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson, who lives in Sedgley, used to regularly promote pro shows at Dudley Town Hall and is delighted to be returning there.

He said: "I am pleased to be able to

do it. It's great to be back." Summers is going up a weight to light heavy, when he steps through the ropes with Hull's Luke Allon for six rounds in chief support.

Aston has been pitted against Birmingham's Carruthers, a former Midlands champion, for a tough first outing in the division.

Call promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157. The Venue can be contacted on 01384 459 800.

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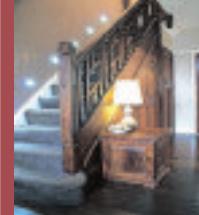
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